

JPRS-SSA-85-012

8 February 1985

Sub-Saharan Africa Report



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8 February 1985

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

NILE BASIN ORGANISATION PROPOSED

Nairobi EA REPORT ON TRADE & INDUSTRY in English Nov 84 p 29

[Text]

UGANDA, Zaire, the Sudan and Egypt are preparing for a pan-African regional organisation to be known as the Nile Basin Organisation (NBO). The proposed NBO, like the Kagera Basin Organisation consisting of Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi, will focus on the exploitation of the natural resources of the basin of the River Nile that flows through these countries.

The Ugandan leader, President Milton Obote, disclosed the plan on October 8 when he delivered his message to the nation in Kampala on the eve of the 22nd independence anniversary.

President Obote declared: "We are now discussing with Egypt, the Sudan and Zaire preparations for the formation of a Nile Basin Organisation". He did not elaborate. The Nile, which flows from Uganda, the Sudan, Zaire, and Egypt, has provided support for a relatively dense population along its valley for many thousands of years. It is the world's longest river, 4,150 miles in length. Its headwaters in Equatorial Africa drains into Lake Victoria — itself the second biggest freshwater lake in the world. The main stream drains from Lake Victoria into Lake Albert, descending from a plateau. It then drains northward from Lake Albert and when the river reaches the margins of the arid lands, it spreads out into a vast area of marsh from which half of its volume is lost by evaporation. The main stream is then powerfully reinforced by two tributaries — the Blue Nile and the Atbara — which drains the highlands of Ethiopia. Below Khartoum, in Sudan, the river enters a narrow V-shaped channel, descending from 1,217 feet above sea level at Khartoum to 282 feet at Aswan.

From Aswan to the head of the delta at Cairo there is a ribbon of alluvial land a little less than 600 miles in length and never more than 12 miles wide. North of Cairo the delta extends some 100 miles to the Mediterranean, spreading out to a width of 150 miles east and west.

As the historian Herodotus, wrote: "Egypt is the gift of the Nile". Without the annual flood of the Nile people could not live in such numbers in the Sahara desert. The continued harvesting of wheat year after year on the same land with no deterioration of yields could never have been achieved without the annual layer of fresh mud brought by the Nile waters from Uganda.

The need therefore to co-ordinate the use of the water resources of the Nile among the four countries cannot be over-emphasised. For one thing, with many users who require water for a variety of purposes, there could be instances where lack of co-ordination could lead to the establishment of duplicating facilities or where it could prevent the extension of systems installed for one particular user to other users in the vicinity. Furthermore, the time is approaching when, in some areas, demand will not match available supplies so that conflicting claims to this national resource must be arbitrated.

The governments of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan and Egypt have been co-operative in a research programme called the hydrometeorological survey of the catchments of Lake Victoria, Kyoga, and Albert. The United Nations Development Programme has been assisting in the survey.

The objectives of the project are the collection and analysis of hydrometeorological data for the three catchment areas in order to study the water balance of the Upper Nile. The first phase of the project was due to be completed in 1972 and the participating governments agreed to extend data collection for at least five years. In addition, it was agreed that Rwanda and Burundi should participate in the project, thus extending the study to include the whole of the Kagera River Basin. The project headquarters are located in Uganda and it is hoped that the headquarters of the proposed Nile Basin Organisation will be located at Entebbe.

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

FRG MINISTER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON AFRICAN AID PROJECTS

Bonn AFRIKA-POST in German Sep 84 pp 3-5

/Interview with Juergen Warnke, federal minister for economic cooperation, by editorial staff member Wolfgang Hoepker: "Foreign Aid--Less Rigid, Less Ideological." Date and place not given

/Text /Question Mr Secretary, it is 23 months since you took office. Foreign aid is a controversial subject--a subject tinged with skepticism, uneasiness, doubts. Some say the assistance is insufficient; others hold that it is excessive and misdirected and that there are too many abortive aid projects. Could it be that after the change of government in Bonn the much-quoted "aboutface" has now reached the Third World? What is the difference between your concepts and those of the SPD/FDP coalition?

/Answer To the Kohl Government, foreign aid is a humanitarian commitment, a natural obligation to help others in time of need. And the state rendering such assistance goes beyond what is purely charitable; in our view, foreign aid is necessary also for reasons of political and economic foresight. The Kohl Government has relieved foreign aid of the guilty conscience. It has introduced a more flexible, less ideological attitude. Foreign aid rests on a moral foundation, but it should not be confused with some kind of obligation to compensate for sins of the colonial age. I will leave aside the question whether this is at all applicable to Germany, a country which was relieved of the "burden" of colonies by the victorious powers of World War I. The countries of the Third World attained autonomy a quarter of a century ago. Basically, those who self-critically hold themselves responsible for any abuse in God's wide world show a lack of respect for the sovereignty of the Third World countries. For they have not yet realized that these countries are now autonomous.

/Question Your department goes by the name of "Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation"--an incomprehensible concept that does not mean a thing to the average citizen

/Answer Unfortunately, this office is not called ministry for foreign aid, a name readily comprehensible. I think it is absurd to call oneself minister for economic cooperation and at the same time to disapprove of even considering economic interests in connection with foreign aid. But that is the way

things used to be. And this practice was untruthful, for in keeping with their responsibilities the previous governments did take into account economic interests. But they always issued statements to the contrary and they prided themselves on a disinterestedness that never existed. We have introduced a more relaxed approach; we have been calling a spade a spade, stating that cooperation between partners means mutual consideration of legitimate interests. In rendering foreign aid, the Federal Republic takes into account the interests of the partner country and it expects this aid to create jobs in Germany as well. We want to help the countries of the Third World--not Swedish telephone concerns or machine building companies of the Eastern Bloc.

/Question/ The German taxpayer should have some say in this too

/Answer/ A large part of foreign aid, i.e. the personnel-oriented assistance, does not involve supplies. But wherever supplies are involved, 70 to 80 percent of the capital returns to the German economy in the form of jobs. In pursuing our foreign aid policy, we must not disregard the interests of the population; we must respect the citizen, the voter, the taxpayer--after all, the taxpayer contributes to the program. The taxpayer will be dissatisfied, if we urge him to exert himself to help the Federal Republic remain competitive, but at the same time show ourselves to be indifferent in regard to doing our share.

/Question/ You do a lot of traveling, most frequently to Africa. In regard to German aid to Africa, are there any political criteria?

/Answer/ Take the case of Zimbabwe. Prime Minister Robert Mugabe calls himself a Marxist-Leninist and considers Socialism the yardstick for his country. Externally, however, he has refrained from engaging in destabilizing activities; he has refused to offer violence-oriented movements of other states any supportive base in his country. We do not share his views, but concede that he has secured for his country the political and economic scope that is a prerequisite for receiving aid. The Kohl Government has been continuing the cooperation. From today's standpoint, the aid granted to Zimbabwe is a good investment, as long as the country pursues a stability-oriented policy.

/Question/ This year the total volume of foreign aid offered by the Federal Republic of Germany amounts to DM 8 billion, i.e. nearly 0.5 percent of the GNP. Considering the Western industrialized states, we are clearly above average. Nevertheless, there is a lot of dissatisfaction about the fact that the goal of 0.7 percent--a figure that has become a dogma--has not been attained.

/Answer/ I don't think that in the late 1980's the demand for more money will be the deciding factor. It is imperative that we learn from the experience of the past 25 years and not repeat the mistakes made by both donors and receivers. In concrete terms: In Black Africa, it is necessary that the countries produce by their own efforts the food, without which the continent would be threatened by horrendous starvation and violence. Food supplied through donations, through continuous outside assistance is counterproductive, because it robs the nations of their vital energy.

/Question/ So you are advocating help to generate self-help--but isn't this a rather hackneyed formula?

/Answer/ Help towards self-help is an absolutely undisputed thesis, but is has now become a stereotype. We have to transform it into a systematic strategy. To this end, our ministry has set up a study group which has now presented some encouraging interim results. These findings demonstrate that in regard to help towards self-help we can draw on a great deal of experience. A good example in regard to self-help organizations in the developing countries are the cooperatives. Through cooperation with such associations, it is possible quickly and effectively to help the people in the Third World. The poverty-stricken, small-scale entrepreneurs are to become credit-worthy. On the basis of systematic outside assistance, they are prepared to try new methods and develop them in accordance with their practical requirements. And this brings me to the second aspect, the personnel-oriented assistance. It appears that financial aid makes sense only if there is a solid foundation in the form of education and training.

/Question/ At present, there is much talk of a "political dialog" that through a frank exchange of views is to clarify the problem of capital utilization.

/Answer/ If we want to learn from past painful experience, it is necessary that donors and receivers discuss the right way of utilization. Agrarian policy is the standard example in this regard: Judging from the experience gained in Africa, I cannot induce the producer to turn out produce for the market, unless I can grant him the requisite prices; and in the past, we failed to do so. That the available money can be used sensibly to effect production expansion--this is something we must talk about. Both sides are prepared to engage in a "political dialog."

/Question/ Such a partnership-oriented arrangement is up against emotive concepts such as "interference," "imposition," "tutelage." They are voiced primarily by the developing countries' ruling strata, which feel that stricter project selection and control may jeopardize their material interests. In many developing countries, there is a great deal of corruption. There is good reason to assume that a considerable part of the capital transferred is side-tracked by the mismanagement practices of a small privileged clique and thus does not reach the truly needy. What is your experience in this regard?

/Answer/ We are not in a position to choose the basic conditions, under which we have to work in the Third World, even though they may be unusual by European standards. We can only see to it that the foreign aid granted is utilized sensibly and effectively. In this respect, however, a "political dialog" is indispensable. In our country, foreign aid is assuredly untainted by corruption. We do not send any checks to Africa or anywhere else in the Third World--the financing of the projects is subject to the strictest scrutiny and the money is not paid out until there is demonstrable progress. Thus we can guarantee that German aid does not get misused.

/Question/ Let's get back once more to Black Africa. Per capita, it receives more foreign aid than any other continent. Nevertheless, it is Black Africa

which is considered a "bottomless pit" where starvation, distress and refugee misery are rampant and where one-time bread baskets now are dependent on food imports. What is the best way of rendering effective assistance there?

/Answer/ Black Africa is indeed our biggest headache; to enable it to feed itself is our top priority. The example of the small East African states of Ruanda and Burundi shows that even densely populated countries (in some regions, there are 350 people per square kilometer) are quite capable of feeding themselves. So far, neither country has been in need of outside support.

/Question/ But precisely these countries make manifest the threat the population explosion poses for the Black Continent

/Answer/ If this increase were to continue unchecked, even advanced agrarian technology would not be sufficient for feeding the people in Black Africa. This is why birth control now is indispensable--on the Black Continent as well as in Asia and Latin America. In view of the fact that we have defeated the three terrible scourges of mankind--war, epidemics, and famine--it is intolerable that we cannot check the population explosion. In Africa in particular, the success of all our efforts in connection with foreign aid policy ultimately depends on whether or not we can meet the demographic challenge.

8760

CSO: 3420/4

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

AIR AFRIQUE HIRES YUGOSLAVS TO REPLACE STRIKERS

AB191144 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Abidjan, 19 Jan (AFP)--An appeals court in Ivory Coast has upheld the right of the multinational Air Afrique (Africa airlines) to sack 116 pilots and cabin staff who went on strike over pay and working conditions last September.

The ruling, delivered by the Abidjan appeals court yesterday, exhausts the sacked pilots' right of appeal over the ruling, and frees Air Afrique to hire new staff--and possibly rehire some of the sacked staff--on different conditions. It also implied that the sacked staff had no right to claim notice of dismissal or redundancy pay.

The strike began on 11 September after the airline, which is owned jointly by 10 West and Central African states, announced in June that it was to cut salaries and trim its staff as part of a strict austerity package. Fifty of the 116 flight crew members are French and the remainder are from African countries. When the strike began, the company requisitioned the African crew members and brought in staff from outside, many of them Yugoslavs, to keep services running.

The company, which has been having serious financial problems, is owned jointly by Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

CSO: 3400/449

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

EAST AFRICAN TRANSPORTATION LINKS--The North Corridor being financed by the European Development Fund of the European Economic Community (EEC) will improve considerably transport links in East Africa and parts of Central Africa when completed. The corridor, to which 30 million European currency units (ECU) was earmarked is the most advanced of the two large-scale transport projects that are being funded by the EEC. Once completed, the project will link the port of Mombasa through Uganda to Rwanda to Burundi and consequently to Zaire and Zambia. The success of the project depends on the drawing up of transit convention agreement between Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda with Zaire as an observer to establish a workable and integrated system of administration of transport in the East African region. The establishment of the agreement will be followed by physical work on the infrastructure which will include the improvement of both road and rail route and also the rehabilitation of parts of the port of Mombasa. The draft agreement has nine protocols with four already initiated in November 1984 and which are concerned with the identification of transit route, customs control, documents and procedures and the movement of dangerous goods. One of the benefits of the agreement will for instance reduce the 17 documents required for transit from Mombasa to Bujumbura to one unified transit document. The agreement is also being seen as a new arrangement that the PTA will eventually achieve when it becomes fully operational. [Text] [Nairobi THE KENYAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 85 p 8]

CSO: 3400/423

ANGOLA

MINISTER LOPO DO NASCIMENTO DISCUSSES TRADE WITH PORTUGAL

Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 13 Dec 84 p 8

[Text] Recently, in an interview granted to DIARIO DE LISBOA in Luanda, the Angolan planning minister, Lopo do Nascimento, declared: "During 1985, sales of Portuguese goods to the People's Republic of Angola could exceed by half the total posted this year." According to this leading member of the RPA government, the only way of curbing the present breakdown in economic relations between Portugal and Angola consists of an improvement in the political relations between the two countries. In his view, however, there are no prospects for this happening over the short term. Together with the problems raised by the freedom of movement granted in Lisbon to members of UNITA (an issue to which the Angolan leader, moreover, does not attribute particular importance), the Portuguese-Angolan understanding appears to be particularly damaged at present for two different types of reasons. On the one hand, government sources in Luanda indicate that the RPA government greatly disapproves of the role that the Portuguese executive branch has played in the international spreading of "rumors" about the negotiations with the South Africans and the issue of UNITA; something which Lopo do Nascimento declined to confirm or deny. On the other hand, the Angolan former prime minister admits that his government does not appear to be especially interested in the proposals for triangular cooperation recently put forth by Portugal. According to the aforementioned sources, Luanda seems to have very little appreciation for the efforts on the part of Mario Soares' government to carry out projects of that type...without the Angolan officials' ever having had their views heard on the subject.

Receiving us very cordially in his Luanda office, Lopo do Nascimento began by giving us his opinion on what is considered in Portuguese government circles as "the lack of concrete effects from Angola's decision to review its cooperative relations with Portugal." Based on this analysis, the figures on Portugal's foreign trade attest to the fact that, this year, Portuguese exports to Angola far exceeded the results accrued during any recent year.

According to the Angolan planning minister, this fact is, nevertheless, misleading. On the one hand, he gave a reminder that most of the sales made this year were based on contracts signed and unblocked in 1983, before the MPLA Central Committee decided to reassess the RPA's relations with Portugal.

On the other hand, he expressed the view that, "it is impossible to suddenly halt a car that is going 200 kilometers an hour." Moreover, he added, there is a need to "seek alternatives," and it must be realized that "there are many signed contracts awaiting approval of the credit line, and it was impossible to tell the business firms suddenly that their contracts were worthless."

For these reasons, that member of the MPLA Central Committee claimed: "It is possible that there has not yet been as large a decline in trade relations as was desired."

Of \$96 Million, Only \$40 Million Materialized

According to Lopo do Nascimento, the effects of the discussions held by his party's Central Committee will be clearly felt this year, and the proof that they are to be implemented lies in the fact, for example, that the credit line existing between Portugal and the RPA has been reduced, at his government's request, from \$60 million to \$40 million. Another factor (this one a more palpable one) attesting to the results of the Angolan strategy for reducing commercial exchanges with Portugal was also cited to us by the subject of our interview. "In December 1983, contracts were signed with Portuguese firms in the amount of \$96 million. Those contracts were only awaiting authorization from the Bank of Angola and the Ministry of Planning. To date, the ones which went ahead have amounted to only \$40 million."

In definitive terms, it is difficult to quantify the effects of this direction taken by the Angolan Government. However, taking the forecasts of Portuguese foreign trade, indicating a total of \$20 million in exports of goods to the RPA in 1984, as accurate, Minister Lopo do Nascimento (after making a few calculations with his pocket calculator) did not hesitate to admit a 50 percent cut in the total amount of Portuguese sales next year.

He told us: "If sales of Portuguese goods amounted to \$20 million this year, I agree that this figure could be cut in half during 1985."

As for the sectors that will be most affected by this policy of reassessing economic relations with Portugal, the planning minister told us: "It is not correct to claim that the cuts will affect mainly services and the technical assistance contracts. The fact is that we are reviewing all contracts in both sectors and in fact we are starting with Portugal."

With regard to the consumer goods exported by our country to the RPA, the top-ranking official in charge of the Angolan economy told us: "It is not accurate to claim that they are cheaper and more geared than others to conditions in Angola." As an example, he cited the fact that Portugal has been "dismissed as a supplier of wine for large-scale consumption." In this concrete instance, he remarked, Angola has just concluded a 5-year contract with Algeria, despite the fact that its prices are less competitive than those of Portugal. "This is, obviously, a political decision," observed Lopo do Nascimento, noting that Portugal will nevertheless continue supplying wines for hotels and restaurants.

Commenting on other sectors, the subject of our interview disclosed some of the substitutes that have been found for Portuguese products. "As for construction materials, the Spaniards have already created a maritime route for transporting those goods, which has enabled them to appear as an alternative market to the Portuguese one; in the area of textiles (excluding the traditional fabrics), we have the possibility of the Far East."

In the area of public works, Lopo do Nascimento was of the opinion that, "The problem lies essentially in the fact that Portugal lacks a financial policy geared to that sector." He claimed that this situation has already caused various Portuguese companies in that field "to be forced to seek financing on the London market."

'Ask President Ramalho Eanes'

In view of this gloomy picture, one question must naturally be asked: Are we faced with an irreversible situation or is there any possibility of reversing the direction of the change in economic relations between Portugal and the RPA? The response is obvious to the subject of our interview, and it emerges abruptly: "There must be an improvement in the political relations."

We inquired: "But what are the major measures that you think should be adopted in Lisbon in order to be able to attain that goal?" "Ask the honorable President, Ramalho Eanes, what he knows," we were told. In response to a question from DIARIO DE LISBOA, he added that, in the event that Mario Soares should go to Belem, the relations between the two countries would not necessarily worsen: "The problem is not one of individuals; it is one of politics," he argued.

According to Portuguese government sources, the issue is a political one, indeed, but primarily one of Angolan politics, we reminded Lopo Nascimento. From this viewpoint, often inspired by Necessidades Palace, the tensions between Lisbon and Luanda are explained in the final analysis by the Portuguese Government's vulnerability as the former colonizer and by the ease with which the Angolan officials could exorcise their difficulties through it. Thus, Portugal is the "scapegoat" of the West, merely because of being, in some way, its weakest link, in the context of the interests which are currently at stake and opposed to one another in Angola.

For the RPA's planning minister, this analysis is more than anything a reason for smiling and shrugging his shoulders condescendingly:

"The fact is that the Portuguese Government has behaved badly in relation to the RPA. Otherwise, we have normal relations with other Western countries, and they are developing, because there is an interest in this on both sides. When we award a bloc for oil exploration to France, Italy or the Netherlands, it is a political option of the Angolan Government. I don't see how one could talk about scapegoats."

Yet the Portuguese-Angolan dispute cannot be reduced to the freedom granted to UNITA members on Portuguese territory. Furthermore, Lopo do Nascimento does

not attribute any preeminent role to this issue, stressing rather the "behavior" of the Lisbon government in the bilateral relations and in the contacts with third countries. For example, according to the minister, "It is offensive to say (as the Portuguese prime minister has) that Portugal is not interested in cooperating with Angola because we don't pay. This is, in fact, offensive to us who pay everything that we have to pay, and to those who do not pay because they cannot do so."

In his opinion, "other governments of the right have already proven to be even more pragmatic and realistic" in the relations between Portugal and the RPA.

'We Shall Not Make a Blind Reduction'

The view expressed by our interviewee regarding the link between the status of the economic relations and the political difficulties bringing the two countries into opposition seems to contradict recent statements made by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, during his visit to Spain. We reminded him that the Angolan head of state declared on that occasion that trade relations with Portugal "are good and are progressing at a good pace."

According to the head of the Planning Ministry, "What the honorable president of the republic meant was that there was a rather obvious deterioration in the political relations, but that in the realm of economic relations this had not yet happened." Those relations "do not show prospects of improving over the short term," he emphasized, but "it is neither possible nor is it our intention to make a blind reduction. There are things that we are concerned about maintaining, sectors in which it is both possible and feasible to utilize the existing relations." Among those sectors he underscored that of civil construction, although preserving the necessity for "moralizing the present situation and finding suitable financial solutions." With regard to moralization, he told us: "The companies take a great deal of money, but that does not hold true of their workers."

Also in the area of civil construction and public works, Lopo do Nascimento told us that the Cambambe dam project "is on stand-by, and it is as if the negotiations with Portugal in this respect had never existed."

Concerning the competitive status of Portuguese products and services, that member of the Angolan Government stressed the need for being "competitive in the area of prices, but also in the realm of financing." The lack of equilibrium in the trade balance between the two countries, in Portugal's favor, was also acknowledged by our interviewee as "a factor contributing to the reduction in the exchanges between the two."

In this regard, he claimed that Angola still has some oil to sell but, in particular, he emphasized the RPA's preference for overall agreements on cooperation wherein the Angolan purchases would have as counterparts not only exports of certain products, but also the training of native technicians and the recovery of facilities existing in the country.

As an example, he cited a recent agreement for the purchase, over a 5-year period, of 30 million liters of wine from Algeria, a country which assumed responsibility for training Angolan technicians to put the existing bottling factories, etc., into operation again. He remarked: "It is a general type of cooperation like this that we are establishing with Algeria; something which is impossible with Portugal."

But to surmount these limitations, the planning minister claimed, the constant references to a common language and to the understanding of Angola that the Portuguese have do not suffice. Based upon his analysis, "There is, in fact, considerable scientific and technical knowledge of Angola in Portugal; but this of itself does not bring about a privileged relationship, nor should it be an overestimated factor."

In other words, "There is knowledge, studies have been made, there is the language and there are people...but resting on that is no solution. There must be something else, besides this...."

Paulo Jorge's Departure Has Not Changed Anything

During the lengthy talk that we had with Lopo do Nascimento, Paulo Jorge's departure from the Angolan Ministry of External Affairs was also discussed. Could his departure benefit the relations between Lisbon and Luanda, or not? According to the planning minister, the question does not even come up: "The decisions concerning the reassessment of relations with Portugal were not those of the minister, but rather of the MPLA's Central Committee. The ministers do not determine the policy; the one who makes it is the party. The Central Committee decided that it was necessary to reassess those relations, and the ministers must implement that decision and submit the results to it. This being the case, it is subjective to claim that a minister is for or against."

Resuming the topic of the RPA's interest in maintaining certain relations with Portugal, despite the present atmosphere, our interviewee cited the example of the Portuguese presence at the International Fair in Luanda as a case of his government's policy. "Present there were various Portuguese businessmen who had things of interest to us, but we did not invite Portugal. The government was not invited, but it was deemed feasible to select a group of business firms offering items of interest to us," he explained.

With regard to the difficulties that the RPA is currently undergoing, Lopo do Nascimento told us that all the Angolan policy and, specifically, all the country's economic development programs, are contingent on the "war effort." He said: "The military situation is a deciding factor, not only because of the direct expenses that it entails, but also because of the opportunity that can or cannot be given to the peasants to produce and make the production circulate."

'Winning the War Means Winning the Peace'

In the long run, the minister admitted, the Achilles heel of Angola's domestic economy lies in the organization of commerce; and, in that area, "the war

problem is fundamental." This scourge which, for over 2 decades, has absorbed the best efforts and desires of the Angolan people, is accompanied by things as serious as the drain of cadres on all levels (an extremely significant factor, claims Lopo do Nascimento), and of the country's merchants and carriers.

"What country in Africa would tolerate the disappearance of all its merchants and carriers in 6 months?" he asked, adding: "Now, compound this situation with the state in which the country finds itself after so many years of war"; pointing to a map showing the bridges destroyed all over the country since independence, "and tell me how many countries would still be surviving as we are."

Hence, the conclusion that peace is an essential requisite for the progress of Angola is just a step warranting our question: Then, must the war be won? Lopo do Nascimento's answer is: "Yes. I don't know whether it is winning the war or winning the peace." Winning the war through peace? we asked. "Winning the peace in the sense of creating a climate of peace in the country...it is for this that we are striving," he explained.

But might that effort also entail negotiations with UNITA? we inquired. "No, that is out of the question entirely," assured the subject of our interview, who concluded by saying: "Everything must entail the four points contained in the platform submitted by the RPA Government to the UN and to the U.S. Government."

With regard to the relations with Portugal, a final caution the significance of which Mario Soares' government certainly realizes: "There are other things at stake besides the puppets' propaganda."

2909

CSO: 3442/139

ANGOLA

SITUATION IN BENGUELA DESCRIBED

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 16 Nov 84 p 3

[Report by Domingos Muhongo: "The People of Chila Urgently Need Help"]

[Text] Benguela--Everything began on the morning of 17 October, when the chairman of the Regional Military Council of the 7th Region, Kundi Paihama, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)-Labor Party, at the head of a military review in the barracks of the National Agricultural Mechanization Company (ENEMA) in Benguela, gave instructions to his officers to direct their subordinates in a disciplined manner during the mission. The delegation that was going to leave was headed by the coordinator of the department for state and judicial agencies and first secretary of the Provincial People's Assembly Antonio Sapalo.

After the Kanjala commune as one goes toward Sumbe, we entered the serpentine forest trail into the interior, being surprised by the first rains that came to benefit the plants that have not had rain for a long time. The rains transformed our trail into a veritable skating rink, a situation that caused some damages. The weather forced our fighters to perform double duty: one, vigilance against the enemy and, the other, to repair the bridges and trails. The first work was begun in the mountainous area of Gungo, a commune belonging to the municipality of Sumbe South Kwanza Province, which is geographically located between mountain ranges. Each time we climbed the mountains, there was more rain, thus creating more work.

The distance separating Chila and Lobito is 171 kilometers but due to the difficulties encountered during the trip, we had to wait 4 days to reach our destination because the shortest route linking the municipality of Bocoio to Chila is inoperative due to enemy actions, which sabotaged the Balombo River bridge.

Chila Commune

Chila ("Dancing Place" in the Umbundu language) is located 181 kilometers from the capital city of Benguela Province. It borders on Kwanza South Province to the north, the municipality of Balombo to the east, and the municipality of Bocoio to the south.

The commune, which has about 4,499 inhabitants at the present time, is strongly integrated in defense, above all. This fact is visible as soon as one enters: the houses are surrounded by trenches and the people go about armed and vigilant without distinction as to age. Almost all of them demonstrated optimism about the defense of their social objectives.

Notwithstanding the two attacks the enemy made recently, the people show that they have the capacity to defend themselves from any type of aggression the bands may practice. "The 'Kwacha' is afraid of us. He has already received enough of a lesson from here; now we hope that they will show up because they know and understand very well that the People's Defense Organization (ODP) of Chila is dangerous," a 56-year-oldster told us.

The main products produced in that region are corn, "jinguba," cassava and sweet-potato, the greatest problem at the present time being the lack of production tools, specifically hoes, machetes, axes, etc. "The first priority now is hoes, machetes, clothing, salt and soap; the rest can come later but the hoes will have to get here urgently because the people want to reactivate their fields but the lack of tools limits the work," complained one of the village elders.

Despite the fact that this area has very fertile soil, a large part of the commune has not been cultivated because of the lack of support by the state agricultural organs. The warehouses of the National Company for the Marketing and Distribution of Agricultural Products (ENCODIPA) have been turned into dormitories, therefore, what is happening here is that agriculture is practiced at a very low level and the few people who are engaged in it do not produce more than is necessary for their own consumption.

Farm marketing has never been fruitful because the Ministry of Home Trade does not have the necessary articles to exchange for farm products. This has resulted in the people not receiving any type of supplies for a year. The employees of ENCODIPA, for example, allege that they have not been paid in a year, a situation that has led them to become farmers in order to satisfy their family needs.

The educational sector in Chila is proceeding very slowly. The teachers are complaining about transfers promised by the municipal authorities and better social conditions. Some have already worked 8 years without being paid.

This year, 839 regular pupils and 167 adults enrolled in school, divided among the three existing schools. There are 14 teachers for regular schooling and 11 for the adults. After the students complete the fourth grade, they remain idle because they have nowhere to continue their education because the communications route to the municipality of Boboio, which served the commune's graduates, is inoperative.

In the meantime, the health sector is facing a worse situation. At the present time, the commune does not have a nurse. The person who previously performed those duties became an enemy of the people, having trafficked with

medicine in exchange for chickens. The only health center in existence is headed by a first-aid man who sometimes is incapable of responding to the more serious cases that come up because he does not have in-depth nursing knowledge. Thus, health in Chila needs urgent support in order to minimize the present situation.

With the lack of soap, the people are forced to resort to primitive means, to use special plants to wash themselves.

"We have not seen soap since they wrecked the Balombo bridge. This situation forces us to use special plants to at least come into the room minimally clean. Those who can, go from here to Gungo commune on foot and bring back a piece of soap. But that's 100 kilometers," a teacher told us.

Popular Rally

On the day following our arrival, the delegation visited the military units, where it had the opportunity to familiarize itself with the difficulties that the Chila defense forces face. Following that, the visiting authorities met with all the local officials with a view to solving some of the problems that hamper the normal operation of the commune's party and government activities. The problem of the road link to Bocoio, supplies and the situation of the graduating students were the topics most discussed during the meeting.

In the afternoon, a rally was held in 11 November Square which was attended en masse by the local population. After presenting the new assistant commissioner, Carlos Chideganhe, Antonio Sapalo delivered a speech in which he explained the reasons for the delegation's visit to the commune.

He promised to make every effort to reactivate the road that links Bocoio to Chila. "The comrade provisional commissioner, Kundi Paihama, sent us here to resolve with you the problems we found here. The party and the government will make every effort to reactivate the Bocoio-Chila road so that supplies and the students may pass without any obstacle, but in order to do that the collaboration of all the people of Chila is necessary," exclaimed Antonio Sapalo.

With regard to the problem of health, that official emphasized that in the future a nurse will be sent to work with the existing first-aid person, and he said that the six teachers who came will replace the others. Finally, he appealed to the population for national unity, a decisive factor for building socialism. He also stressed the fact that, though with difficulty, the party had responded to the request of the chiefs of that commune regarding the supply of essential articles.

8711

CSO: 3442/128

ANGOLA

BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR ON BILATERAL RELATIONS

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 18 Nov 84 pp 1, 12

/Report on interview with Mauro Couto, Brazilian ambassador to Angola, by ANGOP; date and place not given/

/Text/ The third meeting of the Joint Committee for Cooperation between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the People's Republic of Angola will be held in Brasilia beginning 23 November.

The Angolan delegation, which will be headed by Pedro de Castro Van Dunem (Loy), minister of energy and petroleum, will meet with the Brazilian delegation, whose chairman is Senator Cesar Cals, minister of mines and energy, to discuss the principal aspects of the cooperative arrangement between Angola and Brazil in light of the latest developments in this sphere.

We are referring to the Kapanda Dam project in which Brazil will participate as the party responsible for all civil construction while the Soviet Union will supply all heavy equipment.

Other aspects to be discussed are mainly those which were agreed upon during the Brazilian technical work sessions held in Luanda--namely, the purchase of Angolan oil by Brazil and the training of Angolan cadres in that South American country.

It will be remembered that the signing of the contract for the construction of Kapanda Dam will take place in Luanda on Wednesday, 21 November.

Cooperation Envisioned by Brazilian Ambassador

Meanwhile, Mauro Couto, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the RPA, stated Friday in Luanda that relations between Angola and Brazil are excellent and are in a phase of great constructive development.

Granting an interview to ANGOP at the conclusion of his diplomatic mission in Angola, Mauro Couto stated that there are many areas of cooperation from the cultural and economic sectors and human and energy resources to the pursuit of conditions which will make the south Atlantic an ocean of peace binding the various peoples closer together.

In the opinion of Mauro Couto, ambassador to Angola since April 1982, the principal aspects which characterized technical, economic and scientific cooperation between the two states in 1984 were "on the political level good understanding between the two countries in all bilateral forms.

"Brazil," he said, "has always supported Angola in the search for a just solution to the problems of southern Africa, and Angola has understood and supported Brazilian initiatives for more equitable economic conditions.

"In the economic sphere," he continued, "the lines of credit which Brazil has offered to Angola have been renewed, and this will permit greater development of broad and varied trade." He emphasized that, although his country has appreciably reduced its purchases of foreign oil, it has maintained its purchases of Angolan "crude" at the former levels and is thinking of increasing them, "giving priority to Angola."

"In the petroleum sector," the Brazilian diplomat asserted, "my country's participation in Block 2 was limited to a few discoveries which, however, make it possible to foresee certain new and very significant objectives."

With regard to the recent signing of a contract for joint exploration by SONANGOL /Angolan National Fuel Company/, BRASPETRO /PETROBRAS International, Inc/ and a Belgian firm in Block 4 of the Angolan continental shelf, geological research has already been carried out in that block and drilling is expected to begin during the first few months of 1985.

It should be pointed out that this is the first time that SONANGOL is participating as a partner in Block 4 in either the technical aspect or in prospecting; heretofore, SONANGOL has been only a financial associate.

At the same time, BRASPETRO has offered SONANGOL a training program calling for the professional training of more than 100 Angolan workers in the petroleum sector.

In the economic domain, Brazil plans to install a new electrical network in Luanda, make a study of the country's port facilities with a view to their modernization, revamp Luanda's telephone system and that of the country's interior, cooperate in the improvement of TAAG /Angolan Domestic Airline/, ANGONAVE /Angolan Shipping Company/ and the food industry and help develop the country's hotel sector which is now beginning to cover a much wider area.

In speaking of cooperation in the cultural domain, Ambassador Mauro Couto asserted that highly successful steps are being taken in this direction both in the presence in Brazil of well-known Angolan writers, such as Jofre, Pepetela and Mendes de Carvalho and in putting the books of those writers on the Brazilian market in addition to giving lectures on the national literature.

The interviewee also mentioned the presence in Rio de Janeiro of an Angolan artists delegation consisting of a number of individuals who are taking part in the first black art festival (Kizomba); he also spoke of the visits of individual musicians and ethnographic experts illustrating Angolan music in the Brazilian territory.

Cooperation in movie circles and the opening of a branch office of the ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY in Rio de Janeiro this year were also mentioned by the diplomat.

Mauro Couto also used this opportunity to thank the TPA /expansion unknown/, the RNA /Angolan National Radio/ and other organizations for the news coverage they gave to Brazilian culture and sports.

Interuniversity collaboration between the two countries is being finalized, provided, as the ambassador stated, that Angola and Brazil sign pending agreements between Agostinho Neto University and certain universities in Brazil which have excellent sources of information about the People's Republic of Angola through their centers for African Culture.

The situation prevailing in southern Africa, the constant violations of Angolan territory by the South African Army and its occupation of part of Cunene Province were also brought up by the Brazilian diplomat who had this to say: "We, as delegates from Brazil, are vitally interested not only for strategic reasons but also through the ties which unite us in this southern part of the African continent.

"At every opportunity I have informed the Angolan Government of the measures of support which Brazil is taking in this arduous struggle, the drama which Angola is experiencing, harassed on all sides but particularly by the South African invasion, not giving it either the time or peaceful opportunity to consolidate the process of independence which per se is already difficult.

"May today's tears and sweat strengthen all Angolans, as I am sure they will, and may the leadership of that country be inspired by the example of their people and achieve a more constructive spirit which will make it possible to regain the peace which is so earnestly desired," the diplomat stated in conclusion.

8568

CSO: 3442/127

ANGOLA

BRIEFS

GDR AID TO RED CROSS--Berlin--A shipment of aid materials has just been sent to the Angola Red Cross (CVA) by the presidency of its sister organization in the GDR. The aid consists of training materials for CVA information centers in Benguela, Huambo, and Malange Provinces, as well as anatomical materials from the hygiene museum in Dresden. The supplies were financed in part by contributions from young people in Berlin, Discojiwotsdam [as published] and Rostock, who were asked to help the young Red Cross society of Angola to carry out a health education program of the population. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 21 Nov 84 p 12] 12430

MEDICINE SHORTAGE IN BIE--The Catabola municipal hospital in Bie Province is currently faced with innumerable difficulties because of a shortage of medicines, thus affecting its service to the people, ANGOP has been informed by Manuel Chimuoc, health commissioner of Bie. The commissioner says that there have been frequent cases of measles, diarrhea, and pulmonary infections which, for lack of medicines, have contributed to the high mortality rate, especially among children from newborn to age five. The Catabola health center has 80 beds in its various public treatment sections, as well as a pharmacy and medical equipment. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 21 Nov 84 p 12] 12430

ZAIRE PROVINCE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS--The Minister of Internal Commerce, Adriano dos Santos Junior, in a recent interview with the local press, characterized as deficient the supply situation for industrial and food products to the populace of Zaire Province. The problems of transporting goods to Zaire Province, he said, are closely linked with the lack of vehicles as well as the poor condition of the road to Luanda. The National Supply Commission, however, has taken various steps to reduce the difficulties, making use of all means at its disposal, including roads, waterways and air he added. Santos Junior also stated that the internal trade ministry has put two emergency plans into effect, one for supplying the populace and the other for rural marketing. He further declared that Zaire Province is to receive 10 IFA-type vehicles more suited to work in the rural areas, since, he said, the Nissan vehicles are not suited to sandy terrain. He concluded by adding that during this past year a joint commission of the internal and external trade ministries imported from Brazil various articles of interest in rural marketing. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 21 Nov 84 p 12] 12430

TRUCKS ORDERED FROM BRAZIL--Angola has ordered 591 type-10 trucks from Volvo of Brazil, for a total figure of \$24 million. Part of the order should reach here even this year, according to the Brazilian GAZETA MERCANTIL. The negotiation was formally announced when an Angolan delegation, headed by Transportation Vice Minister Eduardo Bonga, visited the Volvo factory in the industrial city of Curitiba, and confirmed in Luanda by Xavier da Silva, chief of the transportation department of the ministry of transportation. The source stated that about 100 of the vehicles should reach Angola in December, with the remaining 491 to be shipped by August 1985. Meanwhile, to avoid schedule delays, Brazilian Volvo has hired an additional 45 workers to strengthen the factory work force. During the visit, Eduardo Bonga emphasized that "the trend is for repeat business with Brazil." He reminded in that connection that Brazil was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the RPA, over and above the historic ties of sharing Portuguese colonization. The GAZETA MERCANTIL explained, however, that the Angolan government called attention to the important presence of Volvo in Angola, where 4,000 vehicles of that make are in circulation, of which 3,000 are trucks and 1,000 are cars. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 16 Nov 84 p 2] 12430

TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH CUBA--As has become customary with the countries exhibiting at the IFCOM-84 international trade fair, the Socialist Republic of Cuba yesterday observed its national day at the Luanda international fair. During the ceremony, attended by officials from IMPORTANG, a visit was made to the Cuban pavillion to admire the range of Cuba's industrial and food product exports, especially to the RPA. It was pointed out that since 1975, one year after the opening of trade relations with that brother country, 90 percent of the value of Cuba's exports to Angola derive from the sale of sugar. During the meeting it was noted that the RPA exports large quantities of wood to Cuba, the figure for the first 10 months of 1984 reaching some 25,000 cubic meters. As part of the fair and the increased bilateral trade relations, the Republic of Cuba signed various contracts and agreements with our country, some of which provide for Angola to buy 67,800 tons of fine sugar, 700 tons of tuna, and 13,000 cases of rum. The sugar purchase agreement for the 1986-1988 triennium was signed for Angola by Eurico Pires, National director of foreign trade operations, and for Cuba by Juan Arias, chief of the sugar business department. In addition, Lourenco Neto, general director of IMPORTANG, signed a contract for the supply of sugar up through the end of the year, viz., November and December, and another agreement for 1985 providing for the purchase of educational toys for school-age children was finally signed. These products should arrive in Angola in the coming months. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 16 Nov 84 p 2] 12430

CSO: 3442/132

ETHIOPIA

STARVATION SPARKS PROPAGANDA WAR

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 2 Jan 85 pp 1-4

[Text]

The propaganda war is getting dirtier as death by starvation increases. Supporters of the two main anti-Ethiopian government guerrilla movements, the *Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front* (TPLF) and the *Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front* (EPLF), have intensified their campaign to have food aid diverted from Ethiopia to Tigray and Eritrea. The Ethiopian government and its allies are naturally trying to do the reverse. Of the seven to eight million people now believed to be critically short of food, a million will probably die. The figure would be higher if it included all of the four to five million people the TPLF and EPLF say are starving in northern Tigray and Eritrea.

The Ethiopian government claims the famine was caused by Western reluctance and delays in answering appeals; the West blames Ethiopia's agricultural policy (or lack of it) and the uncompromising ruthlessness of Lt-Col. Mengistu's regime. The basis of the argument lies in the Ethiopian government's politics, the way it is handling the civil war against the Tigrayans and Eritreans, and whether, in the circumstances, there is any justification for destabilising the regime. Certainly a debate is justified, because the status quo will ensure that hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians (including Tigrayans and Eritreans) will die of starvation year after year into the foreseeable future.

● The government has no popular base. It cannot win the war against the Tigrayans and Eritreans — partly since the war itself has become a lost cause for many government troops. Because of its unpopularity and apparent inability to impose workable policies, the government has failed to check significantly the activity of guerrilla movements in other parts of the country. Not one of Ethiopia's major transport arteries is safe from guerrilla attack.

● The 10-year \$30 billion economic plan unveiled in September at the first congress of the new *Workers' Party of Ethiopia* (AC Vol 25 Nos 19 & 20) is based on wholly unrealistic assumptions. And it is largely a political rather than an economic plan. The combination of an unpopular government, a bad economic plan and continued warfare in large parts of the country is obviously a recipe for death and possibly the irreversible ecological destruction of thousands of square miles of once fertile land. Out of the famine might come the realisation by the Eritreans, Tigrayans and the regime that settlement of the civil war is imperative.

● The outlook for a negotiated settlement looks bleak: the government says it has offered practically everything short of secession to the Tigrayans and Eritreans. But the Tigrayans in particular, aware that the government is under great pressure, are refusing offers in the hope that the regime will collapse.

With the prospect of more death and destruction on an unprecedented scale it is not surprising that propaganda charges are coming from all sides. For example, *War on Want's* general secretary **George Galloway** refers to the "culpability of the Ethiopian government both in the scale of the hunger and in its politically-motivated obstruction of the relief efforts", while *Christian Aid's* former director, **Charles Elliot**, claims that the **American** and **British** governments deliberately held up food aid in an attempt to bring down the Ethiopian government. Both arguments are true.

Yet the good case for more international assistance to TPLF and EPLF-controlled areas in the north has been exaggerated and misrepresented. The EPLF-run area of Eritrea is impressive, but it does not have a social and industrial base far more developed than Ethiopia — as has recently been claimed. Nor is the level of literacy among Eritreans twice that of Ethiopia as a whole. Reports of the maltreatment of Baria nomads at Barentu might well be true, but it should be pointed out that the Kunama people of Barentu and its surroundings have over the past decade actively supported the Ethiopian regime. Thousands of Kunama have fought against the Eritrean guerrillas. No one denies that donated grain is on sale in **Sudan** or in western Tigray and Eritrea; but it could only arrive there with the agreement and connivance of the liberation fronts which do after all claim total control of the countryside. Indeed most of this grain (not all, because there is some misuse) has come from feeding centres such as Korem, Mille and Bati which were over run by the TPLF. And the EPLF now admits that it levies a tax on sales of such grain.

In July 1981 and in June 1983 top-level EEC investigation of the allegations of large-scale misuse of aid found no supportive evidence. In November last year a UNICEF mission travelled some 2,000 miles around camps, and specifically cleared the Ethiopian government of any serious misuse, stating that it "saw "constant evidence" of aid getting through to the people who needed it and describing

the Ethiopian *Relief and Rehabilitation Commission* (RRC) as an "extremely efficient organisation". Neither the EEC investigators nor UNICEF were biased in favour of the regime. Ambassadors from Commonwealth countries have similarly cleared the Ethiopian government.

However, there has been good evidence of large-scale maladministration in the RRC. In April 1983 the then RRC commissioner, **Shimelis Adugna**, was made commissioner for children, his deputies were moved and a whole string of other officials were gradually sacked or moved. Shimelis, who in his nine years at the job had been very successful in raising aid, was officially said to be tired. In fact it was discovered that the RRC had become riddled with corruption. Mostly it was on a relatively small scale, though at least one section director fled to **West Germany** with a lot of money. Shimelis was said to be relatively blameless. At the time the government managed to conceal RRC's shortcomings from its critics.

All the grain charges

The TPLF claims that the government refuses to send food into guerrilla-held areas, and that it turns away some of those who arrive at feeding points without papers from government-controlled peasant associations. The government retorts that the TPLF has tried to disrupt the feeding programmes for those who do come — as in the TPLF attack at Korem in 1983 and 1984, at Bati and Mille, and at Lalibela last October where 11,000 people were getting food aid and where 250,000 people from the surrounding districts, up to 6 days walk away, were registered at the time of the attack. The government has been forced to helicopter food into such places as Maichew and Wokro, on the main north road, or send it in in heavily defended convoys for fear of guerrilla attack. In November Korem was again isolated for several days. Guerrilla attacks affect government food distribution just as much as government air attacks hinder guerrilla food convoys in western Tigray.

Both sides use food as a political weapon to reach and control the people. The TPLF has recently encouraged the population under its control to move west into Sudan. The Ethiopian government wants people to move out of the guerrilla areas to the main roads it controls. Despite their dislike of the central government, tens of thousands have been turning up on the roads. They are not being directly coerced any more than the TPLF escorts for the refugees moving to Sudan are forcing the people to move there. People are merely heading for wherever there might be food.

The government has been heavily criticised for failing to accept guerrilla offers of "free passage of food" or a ceasefire for this purpose. The decision is of course political. The government claims the guerrillas are no more than bandits, and denies them the status that it believes such a deal would give. For the government any such deal would in practice be unacceptable if it could not control it. However, the TPLF and EPLF have stressed that distribution of food aid must be organised by international relief workers, free of government interference. According to the *League of Red Cross and Red Cross Societies*, both sides have refused UN efforts to mediate a ceasefire in the combat zones.

Any government moves are naturally criticised by the guerrillas. The EPLF says that food for work programmes — building houses in Asmara — are forced labour, and that food aid distributed to peasant associations in Eritrea is a bribe in return for conscription. Certainly during the past two years the government has managed to arm at least 20,000 peasants in southern Eritrea in the regions of Akele Guzai, Seraye, and Hamasien. But the government still has to spend a lot of military effort trying to break civilian support for the guerrillas. Allied to the use of food as a weapon is the bombing of towns and villages under guerrilla control. The EPLF says there were 20 bombing raids, some using napalm, between September and December, and that government forces were attacking indiscriminately anything that moved in guerrilla areas. (Captured Ethiopian pilots claim that raids are only made on specific, identified targets).

There have been sizeable military operations in recent weeks on the Halhal front north of Keren, and to the west of Mandefera (on the road south from Asmara towards Gondar) where government forces have been pushing into the areas around Areza and bombing towns such as Molki in a long-ignored area between Barentu and Mandefera. In late October/early November government forces did quite well; several hundred EPLF troops reportedly surrendered. In four days of fighting in early December the EPLF claims to have killed 795 and wounded 1125 Ethiopian troops. Relief flights to Axum stopped for several days in November because of military activity.

Since the disasters earlier in the year at Tessenai, and at Mersa Teklai (AC Vol 25 No 10), the northern army command has been changed. The commander, Brig-Gen. **Asrat Biru**, who was wounded in 1983 and thereafter spent a lot of time in Addis Ababa, was made Inspector General of the armed forces. He was replaced by Maj-Gen. **Merid Negussie**, who

remains as well the regional administrator. Previously northern commander in 1978 after a successful spell there in 1976-77 as a divisional commander, he has retained Brig-Gen. **Ragazza Jimma** as his deputy, and arranged for the release of the former commander at Mersa Teklai, Brig-Gen. **Hussein Ahmed**, who was detained for several weeks after the March disaster. (Brig-Gen. Hussein, still widely regarded as one of the top commanders in Eritrea, is back in Asmara as a divisional commander). There have been a number of other changes in the general staff and at divisional and brigade level. More important for morale was the July decision (after a number of petitions) to give the militia a pay rise putting them on a par with the regular forces.

The military activity underlines the substance of guerrilla claims that they control much of the countryside (85%) in both Eritrea and Tigray. In this sort of war, "control" is a very imprecise term. Nevertheless it is clear from the government's own recent population census that large areas of the country are unapproachable. The census failed to enumerate 15% (about 7.1m) of the population. Apart from Eritrea and Tigray, the areas avoided by the census include: the whole of El Kere awraja in southern Bale, and the whole of the southern Ogaden — the awrajas of Degahbur, Kelaffo, Gode, Kebri Dahar, and Wolwel in Haraghe region, which are subject to attack by the **Somali** based *Western Somali*, and *Somali and Abbo Liberation Fronts*; the rural areas of four awrajas of Wolio region — Awsa, Wag, and Raya and Cobbo; the rural areas of Simien awraja in Gondar region and significant parts of Chilga and Wogera awrajas, also in Gondar. All of these are the targets of the TPLF or of the small *Ethiopian Patriotic Democratic Movement* (EPDM) which is a stalking horse for the TPLF. It is no coincidence that in most of these areas the famine has been most severe.

The population factor

The census, whose first volume was published last month, has other shocks for the government. The total figure of 42m was much more than expected, as was the annual increase of 2.9%. It makes all statistical data look worse. For example primary school enrolment was calculated at 50% — it is now down to 30%. Ethiopia is now the poorest country in Africa, if not the world. It always claimed that aid, per capita, was exceptionally low; now it is easily the lowest in Africa.

It is also clear that any calculations of food availability will have to be revised, due to the actual distribution of the population. It was assumed by FAO and others that the main food producing areas of the country — Shoa, Gojjam and Arsi — would continue to produce enough to feed themselves and provide a surplus for the towns. In the light of the census it appears that Gojjam (with 1m more people than were reckoned in the 1979 estimates) and Shoa (nearly 2m more) stand no chance of producing a surplus in a bad year. (Other regions where the population is about a million more than expected are Wollo with a total of 3.6m,

Hararghe 4.1m, Gondar 2.9m and Sidamo 3.7m). The FAO forecast (an assessment mission was in Ethiopia in November/December) originally that crops after the main 1984 harvest would be 25% down, compared to the ministry of agriculture's estimate of a 50% shortfall. However FAO forecasts were made before the census breakdown was available and did not take account of the extra 3m people which will turn Shoa and Gojjam into deficit areas this year.

The target figure given by the UN for Ethiopia's needs for the coming year is for 1.3m tons of grain (of which the UN says some 500,000 tons had been pledged by mid-December, though the RRC in Addis Ababa believes the amount of firm pledges is less). But already there are estimates that the shortfall will amount to 1.7m tons. Even with a best-case scenario, with excellent short rains in March and main rains from July to September, FAO believes that there will be a minimum 10% shortfall, partly due to the sales of oxen and the shortages of seeds. The UN end-of-year assessment for Ethiopia calculates that a third of the 8m people in need of food assistance are also in need of emergency medical help; that another 300 long distance lorries are needed and that costs will come to \$500-600m. These figures do not include the requirements for the refugees now flooding into Sudan at the rate of 2,000-3,000 a day (or the 1,500 said to be dying a day inside Tigray in early December). Another donors' conference is scheduled for this month.

In mid-1982 the Ethiopian government issued a warning of impending disaster for 2m people. FAO backed this up with reports from its own early-warning system and then with an assessment mission. For fiscal 1984 only one country in Africa had its entire United States food aid allotment removed — Ethiopia. Not until late 1983, after strong criticism from Congress and the press, did the US administration agree to send food aid. Following the Ethiopian decision to send away all but 2,000-3,000 Cuban troops in Ethiopia, relations with the US are better: ambassadors might soon be exchanged. Both countries expect the \$38m American compensation claims from 1974-1975 soon to be settled. The problem was discussed when foreign minister Goshu Wolde met US Secretary of State George Shultz at the UN last year. Moscow has yet to voice concern over Ethiopian-US relations, despite the welcome given to the appearance once again of Americans on the streets of Addis Ababa, or the attendance of even central committee members at US embassy functions. The US had pledged 236,000 tons of grain aid by the end of December, with the likelihood of more to come. It has also supported the Egyptian initiative to mediate between Ethiopia and Sudan, and Ethiopia and Somalia.

Contrary to previous information (AC Vol 25, No 25) all the Cuban troops are based or are about to be based in four camps near Addis Ababa (two camps just outside the city, a mechanised unit at the Tatek militia training centre just to the west, and a para-commando battalion at Legadardi to the north east). The Ethiopian government is now confident that its own troops can control the situation in the Ogaden. The WSLF is in disarray and neither the *Oromo Liberation Front* nor the Hargeisa-based *Islamic Front* are making progress there.

The government has also made some new commitments to agriculture, including a marketing and pricing policy which will allow farmers greater returns. Marxism-Leninism for the controversial resettlement programme is being played down. At least initially there will be no insistence on Soviet-style collectives. Only service co-operatives will be encouraged. Criticism of Ethiopia's agricultural policies for being Marxist and biased to collective farms has been exaggerated. By the end of 1983 the co-operative sector produced just over 1% of the harvest. Of the 1275 production co-operatives only 10% had been legalised in the four years since the co-operative decree of 1979. The 10-year plan now talks of having 55% of the farms organised into co-operatives by 1994. The government also plans for the acreage of state farms to more than double to 500,000 hectares. At present state farms produce about 6.2% of the harvest; producer co-operatives and state farms make up 6.4% of the cultivated area. Though the latter have been largely responsible for most of the 18% increase in agricultural production in the last decade, it has been at a very high cost. Fertilizer and machinery for them take a disproportionate amount of the agricultural budget. In future more attention is to be paid to the small individual farmer, who will benefit from a new agricultural extension programme. There are also plans for reforestation and terracing.

The government was widely criticised for spending \$100m on setting up the WPE and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the revolution at a time when hundreds of thousands were about to die of starvation. Thereafter, however, the regime did act with speed — partly because it feared for its survival — and despite the hoards of VIPs who descended on Ethiopia once the famine got underway. In October a National Committee for the Containment of Natural Disasters was set up. Among its sub-committee chairmen are five of the most important people in the politburo — Lt-Col Mengistu, head of state (agriculture), **Fikre Selassie Wogderess**, deputy chairman of the council of ministers (state farms), **Fisseha Desta**, assistant secretary-general of the Dergue (transport), **Berhanu Bayeh**, minister of labour (aid), and **Legesse Asfaw**, head of the WPE's organisational department (resettlement).

In December Mengistu visited Cuba, the Soviet Union, **East Germany** and **Bulgaria** in an effort to raise more technical and material help. Evidently he had little response. That has boosted the standing of the US and EEC. But, in sharp contrast to the Soviets, western powers are loth to help Ethiopia in

resettling 50,000 families (250,000 people at least) from Tigray to the under-populated lands of western Wollega and Gojjam. Mengistu has talked of moving 500,000 people. Other officials have mentioned up to 3m, a figure suggested by American and UN-sponsored reports drawn up after the 1972-74 drought.

There is concern that the resettlement is not voluntary, that it might involve forced collectivisation and that the areas of settlement have been badly planned and prepared. However, no field observers have seen any sign of force so far. And those who have been to the resettlement areas report that the infrastructure is adequate apart from a shortage of schools and medical facilities. Those arriving in the areas are provided with huts, seeds, food, two hectares of land for private use, and one ox per two families. Whether much has been learnt from the previous and unsuccessful attempt at resettlement in 1978 and 1982 remains to be seen. The social consequences of suddenly introducing large numbers of an alien tribe has been considered only casually. At least this time whole families, as opposed to just family heads, are being moved.

There is of course a political element to the resettlement: the removal of support or potential support from the TPLF. The government will probably succeed partly in this. People are prepared to move because they have had enough of never-ending wars. ●

CSO: 3400/427

GUINEA-BISSAU

FISHING COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION CONTINUES

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 15 Dec 84 pp 1, 3

/Text/ The Eighth Session of the Joint Guinean-Soviet Committee on Fishing began its proceedings with discussion and approval of the proposed agenda last Thursday afternoon in the ceremonial hall of the Foreign Trade Ministry.

Presiding over the meeting for Guinea is Comrade Luis Sanca, secretary of state for fishing and a member of the CC do PAIGC /Central Committee of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde/. Representing the Soviets is Comrade Vladislav A. Kryzhevski, vice minister of fishing for the USSR. The meeting will permit the two parties to sit down together and discuss the various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

The vice minister of fishing for the USSR, Comrade Vladislav A. Kryzhevski, has been in this country since last Thursday on a 10-day working visit which will also take him to other regions of our land.

According to statements made by that leader to representatives of our media moments after his arrival at Vissalanca International Airport, the object of his travel, among the issues on the agenda, is the study of solutions to the situation which Estrela do Mar will confront today in the economic field. Later, the representatives will attempt to seek agreement on viewpoints within the area of cooperation already existing between our two governments in the fishing industry.

On the other hand, pressed about the eventual signing of a fishing accord by the two delegations, the Soviet vice minister stated that this will be handled at the national level. "However, we expect to sign a protocol during the course of these sessions covering the committee's work, an effort which will set forth all the viewpoints within the area of our cooperation for the coming year."

Thus, we expect to discuss with the Guinean representatives the continuation of scientific investigation in the fishing basin of Guinea-Bissau's exclusive economic zone, as well as the training of personnel and work schedule for the fleet. We will also discuss the operation of the Estrela do Mar Company, said the USSR's vice minister.

Other members of the Soviet delegation are Comrades Hugo Mayde and Mikhaïd Donoskyo, respectively director-general of the Estonian Industrial Fishing Unit and engineer chief for Foreign Relations and General Supply of the USSR's Fishing Ministry, as well as Comrade Olez Simonov, deputy director of the V/O SOVRYCFIST Section.

The delegation was received by Comrade Luis Sanca of the CC do PAIGC and secretary of state for fishing.

8631

CSO: 3442/143

GUINEA-BISSAU

DELEGATIONS DISCUSS AID, COOPERATION WITH SWEDEN

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 19 Dec 84 p 6

/Excerpts/ The sum of 78.9 million Swedish kronor (1,115,803,800 Guinean pesos) has been allocated for cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and Sweden for 1985, according to agreements signed Monday between the two governments.

The sectors that will benefit are: Rural Development (Zone 1 Program, Central Office of the MDR /Ministry of Rural Development/, Planning Cabinet), Small-Fishing, Industry (Socotram, Bafata Ceramics, General Administration of Industry (Guimetal and the Volvo Maintenance Center), Telecommunications, Energy, Education, National Public Health Laboratory, Trade, support for imports, and the fund for housing construction.

In the industrial sector, Sweden is not willing to finance the transfer and salvaging of Bandim Ceramics or the People's Production Project in Cacheu.

The two parties established that Guinea-Bissau's policy with regard to exchange, credits, distribution of foreign exchange and the setting of prices is of interest to the development of the national industry. The Guimetal factory is of national interest with regard to the use of its manufacturing equipment for the agricultural sector.

The estimate for the energy sector for 1985 will be 600,000 Swedish kronor (1,115,803,800 Guinean pesos).

Another point in the proceedings states that Sweden has shown interest in supporting the trade sector through technical assistance. To encourage imports, SIDA /Swedish International Development Authority/ is placing 4.5 million Swedish kronor at the disposal of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism and 1.5 million at the disposal of the Ministry of Public Health.

8631

CSO: 3442/143

MOZAMBIQUE

INHAMBANE THREATENED WITH FAMINE IF FOOD SHIPMENTS STOP

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 Jan 85 p 12

[Text]

MAPUTO — Another famine could soon strike the southern Mozambican province of Inhambane, according to a document from Mozambique's Natural Disasters Office.

The Mozambique news agency AIM reports that the document warns that parts of central and southern Inhambane are at risk. The three localities of Funhalouro, Tsenane and Mavume in the central district of Massinga are causing particular concern. Three deaths from starvation were recorded in one day last month in Mavume.

Priority in drought relief has gone to the northern districts of Vilankulu and Govuro. This has depended on the shipment of emergency food aid to the small ports of Vilankulu, Inhassouro and Nova Mambone. The document notes that continuation of these shipments is imperative to the survival of various aid programmes.

BADLY NEEDED

Negotiations are under way to extend the contract for the World Food Programme (WFP) boat "5 June", which has ferried much of the food aid to the Inhambane coast. It is currently scheduled to end its service in mid-February. But the document adds that "several more boats are badly needed to move supplies up and down the coast".

WFP stocks have been exhausted in Vilankulu and Inhassouro. However, the WFP has a further 970 tons of grain destined for Inhambane, and plans to send some more maize from an emergency reserve in Maputo to cover the deficit for the time being.

The situation in Tete province, where 5 000 people died earlier this year, is much improved. The report says if present rains continue there is some hope for next year.

Some 80 percent of the province's farmers are estimated to have planted their fields.

RAIL TRANSPORT

The transport situation in Tete has also improved with the arrival in November of 23 British Leyland trucks given to the Natural Disasters Office by the American organisation Care (Concerned Americans for Relief Everywhere). They supplement an existing fleet of eight Leylands and several privately-owned and rented trucks.

Transport of food by rail in the province is difficult because of sabotage by Mozambique National Resistance gangs. About 2 000 tons of grain is currently immobilised on the railway line in Mutarara district, bordering Malawi. If it proves impossible to move the wagons, this food will be unloaded for local consumption.

The central province of Manica, according to the report, "is in less grave danger than was originally feared" after good rains.

CSO: 3400/428

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

NEW WEEKLY MAGAZINE--A new weekly magazine, the NEWS WATCH, is to go into circulation in the country next Monday with an initial production of 50,000 copies. The editor in chief, Mr Dele Dewar, told a news briefing today in Lagos that the magazine would have no political, religious or ethnic affiliations. Mr Dewar explained that the magazine would only publish items with special bias for national interests. He stated that the NEWS WATCH would attach great importance to truth and create an atmosphere in which journalists would work together without hindrance. [Text] [Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 Gwt 24 Jan 85 AB]

PRC DONATES BOOKS--The Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, Le Yang, is to donate books to the National Library of Nigeria. This gesture is part of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the peoples of the People's Republic of China and Nigeria. In a statement issued in Lagos, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology said that the minister, Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, would receive the books on behalf of the Federal Government. [Text] [Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jan 85 AB]

CSO: 3400/457

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

PRAWN RING SMASHED--Maputo--A prawn-smuggling ring has been broken up by Mozambique's criminal investigation police in the central province of Manica, according to the daily paper Diario de Mocambique. The smugglers acquired the prawns in the port city of Beira, in exchange for clothing and luxury products brought into the country from Zimbabwe. The prawns were then illegally exported to Zimbabwe and Botswana. Among those detained by the police are two officials of the state fish and shellfish distribution company, Pescom. Investigations into the affair are continuing.--Ziana-AIM [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 4 Jan 85 p 1]

CSO: 3400/428

RWANDA

AFP ON PROBLEMS OF SETTLING KIBONDO CAMP REFUGEES

AB300930 Paris AFP in English 1252 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Kibondo, Rwanda, 29 Dec (AFP)--Rwanda's third largest town is a makeshift refugee camp housing 25,000 displaced people, most of them Ugandans, who lived enclosed behind barbed wire fences. The Kibondo camp on the edge of the Akagera National Park was established by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the end of 1982, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border with Uganda. Most of the inhabitants are of Ugandan origin, as are a further 6,000 at Nasho, a little to the south. They were expelled from Uganda in October 1982, and await their return home under an agreement negotiated by the two east African neighbours.

Under pressure from the UNHCR, Uganda and Rwanda have been trying to settle their dispute over the nationality of the refugees for the past few months. Kampala has now acknowledged that 27,000 of them are Ugandans, while the 4,000 remaining have been accepted as Rwandans by Kigali. The 31,000 people in Kibondo and Nasho who were expelled from Uganda in 1982 all speak Kinyarwanda, but are of different nationalities as a result of the carve-up of their homeland by the colonial powers of Britain and Belgium.

The Rwandan authorities have now started resettling their 4,000, but the Ugandans are still waiting, following a new condition to their acceptance imposed by Kampala. President Milton Obote's government is now demanding that Rwanda first take back some 100,000 of its own citizens, mostly members of Rwanda's minority Tutsi people, some of whom have been in Uganda more than 20 years. These conditions, which were not spelled out at previous meetings of the two sides in Gabiro, northern Rwanda, and Kabale, southern Uganda, caused the breakdown of a third UNHCR-chaired meeting at Gabiro at the beginning of this month.

Densely-populated Rwanda said it was incapable of acceding to Kampala's demands, though it did agree to "examine" individual requests for voluntary repatriation from Rwandans living in Uganda. Diplomatic and UNHCR sources in Kigali said the matter was discussed by Mr Obote and Rwandan Major-General Juvenal Habyarimana at the recent summit of the Eastern and Southern African Preferential Trade Area in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The Kibondo camp lies at the end of a difficult track at the foot of the mountains on the border. Surrounded by barbed wire, the refugees themselves

are virtually confined to the camp, while [words indistinct] the UNHCR. The refugees, all cultivators or cattle-farmers from Uganda's southeast Mbalala district, are prevented by the authorities from growing any vegetables or even keeping chickens. Only a few bushes grow around the canvas tents supplied by the UNHCR, which are now beginning to deteriorate.

The elected spokesman for the refugees, John Mumyameza, weighed his words carefully, but his bitterness was obvious. "I have arms, [words indistinct]. I would like us to be able to share what we produce," he said.

Accompanied by a Rwandan UNHCR official, Mr Mumyaza pointed out torn tents, letting in the cold wind from the surrounding hills. Beneath them lived entire families wearing in many cases nothing but rags. All formal schooling is also barred, and children receive only elementary lessons in literacy. The camp houses 6,000 children under the age of six and there are 100 births a month. In a corner of one of the 110 "blocks" of 90 tents each, a few pots were simmering on makeshift braziers. "Before the end of January we will have no more wood for cooking and heating," Mr Mumyameza said. "We will have used up the wood supplies allotted to us on our arrival here and no replacements have been found."

The Rwandan authorities consider that they can do no more for the refugees. The only accessible wood remaining in the area is in the Akagera park, a tourist attraction which Kigali intends to preserve at any cost. For Mr Mumyameza, the only solution is for international organizations to find a new country to take the refugees, pending their return home.

At nightfall only a few lights were visible in the camp. Only a single electricity generator was operating, to illuminate the entrance where the guards kept watch.

CSO: 3400/461

SEYCHELLES

RECENT AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS EXAMINED

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 7 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] The Seychelles, a country that until recently was almost completely dependent on South African tourism which, together with some international aid, provided the livelihood for its approximately 65,000 inhabitants, in recent years has undertaken an effort to increase its self-sufficiency in food, associated with other important economic reform measures. This plan, which seeks to consolidate the independence achieved on 28 June 1976, was strengthened after the attempted coup d'etat supported by South Africa in November 1981. Here is a report on the effort in the agricultural area.

To be a farmer today in Seychelles society means to practice an honorable profession. Those who soil their hands working the land and raising livestock have chosen a noble task, that of feeding the nation.

The agriculture department of the "Anse Royale" Polytechnical School ascribes the same prestige to the agricultural sector as it does to the other subjects taught. Such a facility is essential if the country is to diversify its food crops. It is essential that the farmers be as well trained as the doctors in their profession.

The Seychelles are capable of producing a minimum of 75 percent of the food that they need and, according to the manifesto of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, "Ouard [Forward?] to Socialism," every effort should be directed toward that prospect. The front's policy stipulates that every means possible is necessary to produce as much food as raw materials in order to develop the country's agricultural potential to the maximum.

However, the national objective of self-sufficiency in food will not be able to be achieved if the country continues to depend on traditional farmers who do enough but whose production cannot meet the needs of the population. At one time, agriculture was reserved to the illiterate and to those who could not get an office job. At that time, there was no means for training farmers, but the current situation has taken a new pace and every effort is made to give farm activists their proper place in everyday life.

For that reason, the department of agriculture of the polytechnical school plays a very important role in the training of manpower for the future. Thus, 105 students--boys and girls--are enrolled in agricultural courses offered by that school department. According to the person in charge of that department, the objective of those courses is to create a new generation of farmers who work the land, applying new technical-scientific resources. The interest of these students, he added, inspires them with the certainty that properly trained manpower will be able to make a greater contribution to the development of agriculture in the Seychelles.

Two consecutive courses are available to the students of the polytechnical school. These courses in agricultural practices are given to the students coming from the National Youth Service, who are trained in livestock raising, food crops, cooperatives, basic economic sciences and soil science. The courses consist of theory and practice as a result of which, during vacation, the students work in large country estates and in other farm establishments where they can acquire some experience. During the last vacation, they helped in various country estates.

The students who show more interest in agriculture can pursue the general agriculture course lasting 1 year, thus increasing their knowledge in the various agricultural branches. The spectacular aspect of the department is its key theme: "Learn by Practice," which means that the students devote themselves to the different agricultural activities in a property of the university campus especially placed at their disposal within the framework of the course. At the present time, they are still engaged in the creation of the necessary infrastructure and are clearing an area of more than 6 hectares of land.

A good farmer must be healthy, must be in a physical condition that will permit him to perform manual labor in the full heat of the day and to take care of the livestock.

Generally the visitors to the farm may see boys cutting down coconut palm trees, building corrals for the oxen, chicken coops, dovecotes and rabbit hutches. The students make the seed-bed, take care of the seedlings, transplant them, identify the plant diseases and harmful insects and take note of all the activities on the farm.

The program also includes the cultivation of seedlings, control of disease and insects, harvest, sale and conservation.

After pursuing these courses, the trained farmer will be able to use and repair farm tools, build boxes for the seeds and seedlings, take care of the seedlings, apply fertilizers, make grafts, raise livestock, do harvesting and other farm activities.

"We want farmers ready to work hard and effectively," said the person in charge of the agriculture department. Since agriculture is a science that continually adapts itself to new methods and new technology, it becomes important that modern agriculture be soundly constituted and understood as a new challenge, he emphasized.

The agricultural sector of the Seychellese economy offers many opportunities for employment inasmuch as the government is giving attention and lending support to all those who plan to take agriculture seriously.

The trained farmers can work on their own, be placed in other agricultural establishments, join the cooperatives, or work in distant islands where the living conditions are better to encourage more people to advance.

The great challenge of Seychelles agriculture is that of being able to supply the people with necessary food products in terms of quality, quantity and variety with a view to reducing imports, increasing exports and earning foreign exchange.

For all those interested in an agricultural career, we cite some lines from a brochure from the polytechnical school: "If you want to help the country become self-sufficient in food production or if you plan to earn a living as a farmer, apply for a job at the department of agriculture..."

8711

CSO: 3442/136

SIERRA LEONE

BRIEFS

AUSTRIAN FIRM CONTINUES IRON MINING--Freetown, Sierra Leone, 22 Jan (AFP)--An Austrian firm which mines Sierra Leone's iron ore has reversed a decision to close its operations here, Sierra Leonean Second Vice-President Francis Minah said Monday on his return from talks in Austria. The company, Austro-Minerals, has complained in recent months of repeated political interference. Voest-Alpine, the Austrian financiers of the firm, had twice threatened to cut off funds for the iron-mining operation at Marampa, 120 kms (75 miles) east of here, which employs 5,000 people. Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens postponed an official visit to Austria he was due to make last November because of what were described as "pressing national affairs."
[Text] [Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 22 Jan 85 AB]

CSO: 3400/450

SOUTH AFRICA

POWER STRUGGLE FOR LABOUR PARTY TOP POSTS EXPECTED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 29 Dec 84 p 2

[Article by Chris Freimond]

[Text] Kimberley--A major power struggle for senior posts in the Labour Party is expected today after serious divisions emerged publicly at the party's congress in Kimberley yesterday.

A group headed by the Transvaal leader Mr Jac Rabie, and the deputy national chairman Mr Charles Redcliffe, are expected to make a bid for the national chairmanship of the party now held by the Rev Andrew Julies, and other top posts.

A similar move by Mr Rabie at the party's last congress in Port Elizabeth earlier this year failed and led to some of his supporters storming out of the conference hall in protest.

Differences between the Rabie group and other party leaders have been growing for some time.

Yesterday the divisions surfaced clearly in a number of developments including:

--A claim by the LP's national secretary, Mr Fred Peters, in his annual report, that certain elements in the party were more interested in personal power than in the welfare of the party;

--An obviously orchestrated disclosure to the congress that Mr Rabie had been paid R500 to assist the LP's campaign in a recent Cape by-election.

In a heated debate, Mr Peters refused a demand by Mr Rabie that he name the people whom he accused of undermining the party for their own ends.

"I am not prepared to disclose the names in this open conference," he said.

Mr Rabie then demanded that the reference be deleted from the secretary's report, but he was overruled.

In reply to what seemed to be an orchestrated question by Mr Peter Hendrickse, Mr Peters claimed that Mr Rabie had been paid R500 by the party to assist in a recent by-election campaign.

He implied that Mr Rabie had only been prepared to help if he was rewarded.

Mr Rabie denied that he had received the money personally and said it was to cover travel and accommodation costs of workers who went to assist in the campaign.

Although fierce lobbying continued last night, it was not clear if Mr Rabie's group had enough support to win the leadership seats it is seeking.

Mr Hendrickse's post as party leader seems secure, but those of the deputy leader Mr Miley Richards, and the chairman Mr Julies, could be seriously threatened.

Mr Rabie has long been regarded as a maverick in the LP.

He is understood to have been bitterly disappointed in September when he was not appointed to the Coloured Minister's Council.

CSO: 3400/433

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC SECRETARY-GENERAL DISCUSSES DETERIORATING SITUATION

Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 50, 23 Dec 84 p 5

[Interview with Alfred Nzo by Yuri Buksin]

[Text]

"Terrorism has become state policy in South Africa. It is the policy of a dying system."

This is the view of a man who has given almost thirty years of his life to the struggle against the apartheid system. The tribulations that fell to the lot of Alfred NZO, Secretary-General of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa since June 1969 confirm his words better than anything else.

Alfred Nzo was born in 1925. At 25, he joined the ANC. After shooting at a peaceful demonstration by police in Sharpeville in 1960, he was arrested during a round-up and held in custody for five months without trial. In the following year - he endured another five months of imprisonment for violating the "law on passes". In 1962, he was placed under house arrest without the right to be visited by relatives and friends. In July 1963, he was arrested on charges of "subversive" activity and spent 238 days in solitary confinement.

I have met Nzo many times. We last met in Tbilisi, at the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference.

Nzo is on the short side and robust. He is a temperamental man, convinced of the rightness of his cause. He believes that the Africans' struggle in South Africa is not a struggle for civil rights. "Had we been the same as everyone else, there would also be rights worth fighting for," he says. "But the situation in South Africa is different. Ours is a struggle for national liberation."

ANTI-RACIST
UPRISING

Q.: The police and the army are still shooting at peaceful demonstrations. Since the beginning of September some 150 people have been killed and hundreds have been arrested and imprisoned. Units of the regular army have been sent to the African settlements. In what respect does the present situation differ from the one in 1960 in Sharpeville?

A.: A specific feature of the situation today is that the people have united and risen up against the regime. The authorities retaliated with police violence, especially after the elections which were widely boycotted by the Indians and coloureds. This was followed with demonstrations by young people and workers. A significant feature of these actions was that people brought to the fore urgent local problems and they became part of our common struggle. For instance, in Sharpeville the African population protested against higher rents and staged mass demonstrations in this connection.

The miners' strike involved about 70,000 people in different parts of Transvaal. When the leaders of the miners' union were asked whether the strike was part of the struggle against the so-called constitution, they said: "Yes". To the question whether new strikes against the constitution should be expected, they again answered: "Yes".

Thus, the situation clearly indicates: our people can be satisfied only by such constitutional development when rights are granted to everyone and everyone becomes an equal member of society.

STICK AND CARROT

Q: The "constitutional reforms" in South Africa have not changed the Africans' conditions. As before, they are devoid of all rights. Why did Pretoria deem these reforms necessary?

A: The purpose of the elections and "reforms" was to bolster the regime and gain the support of representatives of the oppressed groups of the population. This is the old "divide and rule" policy. Pretoria understands that it is opposed by the growing unity of people from all walks of life and the national liberation movement, which is being joined by the blacks, coloureds and Indians. They are uniting into a broad democratic front.

In staging their elections the racists tried to place different ethnic groups in even greater isolation by tempting the coloureds and Indians with a possibility of sharing power with the regime. But this possibility is a myth. Even under the three-chamber representation comprising whites, coloureds and Indians, whites will be in the predominant position. In this parliament, the coloureds and Indians put together are in the minority as compared with the whites. Their scope extends only to solving questions relating exclusively to their communities.

In Pretoria, attempts are made to stand everything upside down. The question, however, is this: does the white minority intend to share power with other communities, primarily with the African majority, or is the regime simply looking for more modern and effective methods of retaining its total and rigid control over the country?

Q: Evidently, the face-lifting polish of apartheid's facade was intended primarily for external consumption?

A: It is worth recalling that Pieter Botha recently conducted negotiations in Western Europe. There he tried to present the picture of a modified apartheid, to show its allegedly democratic character.

This myth about the changing image of apartheid has now been exposed. We are in evidence of mass actions by the people... Pretoria's

brutal acts in defence of its rule... All this, naturally, put its allies in a quandary. When Botha spoke in Western Europe about constitutional changes, it was seen as a step in the right direction. Everyone must see that this step has been totally rejected by the people.

The question arises over the legality of the racist regime. Botha wanted to present it as the exponent of the people's will. But the boycott of the elections, the expulsion of Africans from taking part, and the scope of present-day demonstrations and strikes make it perfectly clear that the government is totally unlawful, because it is rejected by the majority of the population.

AGONY OF THE WOUNDED BEAST

Q: The system thus far has not changed. Segregation remains in political life, in the church, in education and in public places. The Afrikaners' newspaper "Rapport" has said that the Afrikaners would defend this state of affairs with arms in hand.

A: Repression does not testify to the strength of the regime. A wounded beast is most aggressive in the last moments of its life. This explains the racists' behaviour when they attack the unarmed population. These barbarous actions of the ruling circles are gradually alienating them even from their own social base – the white population. What's happening today is exactly the same as what happened in Soweto in 1976. Then, too, the regime was not supported by the entire white population. Some were opposed to the bloody repression unleashed by the authorities.

People everywhere now see the true face of apartheid. It is defended by its imperialist allies, such as the USA, which takes advantage of its right of veto at the UN Security Council every time the international community plans to apply sanctions against it. The face-lifting reforms of apartheid seem to have given it the grounds for this; it says: look, the regime is changing for the better.

The terrorist regime of apartheid is sinking ever deeper into the morass of crisis. The economic situation in the country is going from bad to worse: the military budget has been inflated out of all proportion (over 3 billion dollars), there is an army of more than three million unemployed, mainly blacks. The authorities are trying to extricate themselves from the crisis not by solving domestic

problems, but by attracting capital from outside - from the transnational corporations. To do this they must demonstrate that they are capable of controlling the situation and that it is not so bad. Botha tried to prove this on his trip to Western Europe.

Mass opposition to the so-called elections, which sparked an escalation of violence against the people, has patently proved that the only acceptable solution of problems confronting South Africa is not in reforming apartheid, but in establishing genuine democracy for all. This is what we call for in the Freedom Charter - a revolutionary programme of our movement for national liberation and social emancipation.

Q: Thus, a paradoxical situation has taken shape in South Africa: in an independent, sovereign country with a population of 30 million, only 4.5 million whites are independent, while the remainder are in a state of the most overt, blatant dependence.

A: South Africa is one country. But it is administered as if it were two countries where one colonizes the other. The Freedom Charter says: South Africa belongs to all who live there, white and black. The government is legitimate if it has been elected on the basis of the free expression of the will of the whole people.

We have set ourselves the goal of establishing a free, democratic society. First the repressive system of apartheid must be destroyed. It is this system that terrorizes our people. This is the core of the problem. This regime, based on white minority rule, on the oppression of the majority, on an alliance with imperialism, is a regime of state terrorism. To defend itself, it fires on schoolchildren in the streets, makes arrests and round-ups, and herds people to homelands - concentration camps. This is a dying system.

A DAY 15 YEARS LONG

Andrew MASHABA is 60 years old. Born in Johannesburg, in 1952 he joined the ANC and was arrested in 1964. The sentence was 15 years' imprisonment. Mashaba spent 15 years, to the day, to the last hour,

on Robben Island in a jail under particularly severe conditions.

We were taken there first in trucks, then loaded onto a ship, and then again on trucks. We were all chained to one another. There were 1,600 inmates in the jail on Robben Island. We were made to break huge stone boulders. We crushed them with hammers into road metal, working barefooted. I came across three comrades whom I had known outside. They were so emaciated it was difficult to recognize them. I have not been very healthy since birth and I feared I would not endure these fifteen years but, to my surprise, I did.

The days in prison were all alike and the whole fifteen years were one long and horrible day. We slept on the bare floor, we got up at half past five, had some thin maize porridge and a cup of diluted coffee for breakfast. Then we began work. We were taken to and from work watched by guards with dogs. We built a road and some dams. For lunch there was more porridge and the same in the evening. Apartheid in South Africa extends to prison meals as well - other prisoners were given more vegetables and bread than the Africans. On Robben Island there are no white prisoners, the only whites are overseers.

How were we treated? We were humiliated in every way and tortured. The soles of our feet never stopped aching after we ran on sharp broken stone. When a guard's dog bit me, I went to the doctor. He gave me some mixture without even looking at me. He poked the tube of the stethoscope into my neck, not bothering to put the ends into his ears. I only later learned how it is used.

For 15 years I was separated from my family. We were only allowed to write home once every six months. Two letters a year - there and back - and only two visits by relatives for half an hour.

Was there any joy for me during that time? I saw Nelson Mandela, when he was still on Robben Island, and I also saw Walter Sisulu.* They were kept apart and were not allowed to communicate with other prisoners. I managed to speak to them for several minutes. This was the only joy that befell me during the whole 15 years.

SOUTH AFRICA

ALAN PATON DISCUSSES NEW CONSTITUTION, ALTERNATIVES

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 6 Jan 85 p 12

[Text]

ALTERNATIVE forms of constitution... This title was given to me by the editor. Why does he suggest a title like that? Haven't we just been given a new constitution? Why, then, should we now consider alternatives?

The answer is simple. It is because of the guess, or the fear, or the conviction, that the new one isn't going to work.

In 1984 the Afrikaner Nationalists, despite strong right-wing opposition, took what they thought was a brave and generous step forward. They received handsome support from the white English-speaking voters. But the response from Coloured and Indian South Africans was poor indeed.

This lack of support for the two new Houses is one weakness of the new dispensation. The other great weakness is that no provision is made for black parliamentary participation.

This is because of the basic — and potentially fatal — flaw in Nationalist political thinking, the assumption that Africans will enjoy participation in the "homelands", and that the homelands have a viable future and will become satisfying places to live in.

Magic date

Dr Verwoerd held the belief that by 1976, or some other magic date, Africans would begin to stream back to the homelands. Instead they go on streaming from the homelands to

Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. The Nationalists believed that the homelands were viable for the simple reason that they had to believe it. Otherwise their security was gone.

There is also a potential weakness in the new dispensation.

Some, perhaps many, of the Coloured and Indian participants are hoping that they will change the mind of the Nationalists about black parliamentary participation.

What will they do if they fail to change it? Will they walk out? The new Constitution makes provision for a walk-out. It empowers the white House of Assembly to govern alone. We shall be back to where we started.

Therefore, it is reasonable to discuss alternatives. What could they possibly be?

There is one alternative of which a great deal is heard, and that is a unitary State with a universal suffrage. That was the policy of the old Liberal Party of the '50s.

It was the policy of a party with highly moral motives. I accepted the decision out of loyalty, not because I believed it possible. I am no longer a member of a party, and therefore I am able to say that such a unitary State could be achieved only by revolution. And a sad unitary State it would be, of decaying cities, idle ports, broken-down railways, and worst of all, a destroyed agriculture.

When I first wrote that the non-racial unitary State could be achieved only by revolution, and that I rejected the ideal because I did not believe that revolution would bring peace and justice, I was attacked — in one case bitterly — by some old Liberals. I had betrayed the Liberal idea.

I also wrote that the final solution would have to be federal in nature.

Another old Liberal declared that federation was an immoral doctrine to hold. Are Australia and Canada, for example, politically immoral countries?

They chose federalism though their two societies are far less complex than our own.

Why do we make no progress towards federalism? It is because the Afrikaner Nationalist fears the federal State almost as much as he fears the unitary State. A federal State means a federal government, and that means black people must participate in the art of governing.

The Nationalist therefore took refuge in the concept of a "constellation" where no group governs any group but its own, but where all groups co-operate out of common interest.

Rejection

The Nationalist rejection of the unitary State is — so far as we can see — final and absolute. Is the rejected of the federal State also final and absolute?

In the spring 1983 number of the journal *Leadership SA*, Mr P W Botha, then Prime Minister, replying to a question put to him by its Editor, Mr Hugh Murray, used these words: "This brings me to another idea that I have been propagating, which is a broader concept than what is generally understood by a 'constellation of States'".

This wider constellation would include a voluntary co-operation on transport, tourism, health services, veterinary services, conservation of water, utilisation of water and energy, etc. Such a

constellation could have very useful talks.

Then we have what I term a "confederation of States".

A confederation of States is a more regular sort of co-operative commonwealth, if one can call it that. It is clear that Mr P W Botha, in using the word "confederation" was not envisaging the establishment of any kind of central government.

The stress is on voluntary co-operation. One cannot honestly call this an advance in constitutional evolution.

The Progressive Federal Party also rejects the unitary State and majority government. It stands for a federation with decentralisation and separation of powers, and a Bill of Rights guarded over by a strong independent judiciary.

But constitution-making is not as easy as all that. The party proposes a "minority veto on vital levels of political decision-making", but says that this must not be seen as a "measure to preserve the privileged position of a minority at the expense of other groups in society". But many people see it as exactly that.

However, the PFP does not intend to impose its will on others. It will "when returned to power", immediately take steps to convene a national convention.

Until now the National Party has rejected the idea of a national convention.

That is because the party intends to keep control of any kind of constitutional evolution.

Some people entertain the notion that when the Government is "brought to its knees" it will call a national convention.

I do not think this is in the least likely. I do not believe that the Government will be brought to its knees in the near or middle future: And if it waits till it is brought to its knees it will be too late for any kind of convention.

Even if the PFP came to power, a national convention might prove to be a bitter occa-

sion, nothing like the convention of 1908-1909, where the Afrikaners and the English had many common interests, not the least of these being the maintenance of white supremacy.

Dream

There is only one time for a national convention, and that is now, or in the immediate future.

Therefore this dream of sitting down together, which is my dream also, looks as though it will remain a dream.

It will be clear to my readers that, in my opinion, constitutional development, in the near and middle future, will remain in the hands of the National Party.

There is one other development that could be a part of our evolution, and that would be the acceptance of the recommendations of the Buthelezi Commission, that Natal-Zululand be given a kind of semi-autonomy. I think it would work.

Race relations in Natal-Zululand are better than anywhere else in the country.

Such a move would take 5 000 000 blacks and nearly a million Indians off the Government's hands.

Is there any chance of it? Only if the National Party thinks that such a move would be in its own interests.

Fantasy

Our State President has just said that South African stands on the threshold of an exciting era of peace and prosperity for all.

Bishop Tutu has just said that President Reagan could act to bring apartheid to an end tomorrow.

Both of these statements are born of hope, and both have an extraordinary element of fantasy. The future is going to be far more complicated.

We are on a road that winds uphill all the way, and the only thing to do is to grit our teeth, gird our loins, and walk it.

Will we make it? I don't know and no one else knows either.

SOUTH AFRICA

PLAN TO NATIONALIZE MINES EMERGES AT LABOUR PARTY CONGRESS

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 31 Dec 84 p 2

[Article by Chris Freimond]

[Text] Major differences on key economic issues have emerged between the Labour Party and its National Party partner in the new Government.

The LP's policy, outlined for the first time at its congress which ended in Kimberley at the weekend, included nationalisation of the mining industry and other elements of socialism aimed at redistributing national wealth to benefit less privileged people.

In many respects the policy runs counter to the NP's commitment to free enterprise in a capitalist structure.

Many businessmen, already reeling under economic hardships and expressing dissatisfaction at the Government's handling of the ailing economy are expected to react angrily to what could be regarded as another assault from politicians.

In an address to the congress, the LP leader, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, who is also a member of the Cabinet, reaffirmed his party's commitment to nationalise mines.

They were a primary resource and belonged to all the people who had a right to share their wealth.

At a Press conference later, Mr Hendrickse said he was striving for a "happy medium" between capitalism and socialism to facilitate a redistribution of national wealth.

"Affirmative action" was needed in both the private and public sectors to assist the speedy economic advancement of people who had been denied the benefits of the country's economy for so long, he said.

He indicated that if the private sector did not adopt affirmative action programmes, legislation would have to be considered to force them to do so.

In another major shift in policy, the LP dropped its opposition to foreign investment in South Africa and called for a five-year moratorium on calls for disinvestment and economic sanctions against the country.

It resolved that a withdrawal of investment would lead to unemployment and poverty which were "breeding grounds for Marxism."

In reply to questions at the Press conference--his first in almost a year--Mr Hendrickse also said:

--He expected some apartheid laws to be scrapped in the coming year, but believed it was not feasible at this stage to expect measures such as the Population Registration Act to be abolished because it formed the basis of the new constitution.

--He would not accept a revision of apartheid laws that ensured equality between whites, coloured and Indians, but excluded blacks.

--He supported the use of the army to help quell recent township unrest, but reaffirmed the LP's opposition to detention without trial.

--He would press for the LP's representation in the central Cabinet to be increased from one to three members because the work load was too great.

--He had not found it necessary since his appointment to the Cabinet in September to use a special facility whereby he can dissociate himself from decisions with which he disagrees after consultation with the State President.

Mr Hendrickse was re-elected unopposed as party leader.

CSO: 3400/433

SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT'S SURVEY ON SCHOOL UNREST GETS MIXED RESPONSE

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 3 Jan 85 p 2

[Article by Anton Harber]

[Text] The Government's survey into recent school unrest—which found that the root causes were not dissatisfaction with education—received a mixed response from opposition organisations yesterday.

Although the survey has not yet been released to the public, Mr Sam De Beer, the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Education who commissioned the report, issued a statement yesterday on the findings.

Further details of the survey, conducted by Professor Tjaart van der Walt, rector of Potchefstroom University, are expected tomorrow after it has been more carefully studied.

Mr De Beer said the survey had found that the almost four months of rioting were not caused by dissatisfaction with school education.

The survey cited the township residents' "widespread" misunderstanding of the new local authority system and of suggested increases in municipal fees as possible reasons for the unrest.

Mr De Beer quoted some of Prof Van der Walt's findings which concluded "the fact that pupils did not return to school after the events of September 3 cannot be ascribed to dissatisfaction with the education received by pupils."

Mr De Beer added that the Van der Walt report showed that acts of violence and arson in the Vaal Triangle during the unrest were not aimed at schools.

Pupils in these townships showed an above-average matriculation pass rate--77,6% versus just over 50% in other areas.

"It is regrettable that schools and pupils were used for non-educational ulterior motives," Mr De Beer said in his statement.

Township parents continued to regard their children's education as a top priority, the 970--age survey found, adding that all 132 people and organisations interviewed were unanimous that parents wanted "the normalising of education."

Prof Van der Walt also found that blacks wanted a greater say in their own education.

Mr De Beer said this and other findings--concerning the problems of excessive corporal punishment, age limits and the management training of school staff--were receiving attention.

The findings were immediately attacked by the United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation.

A UDF spokesman said the report was no more than an attempt to justify the failure of National Party policies.

The uprising of 1976 and its aftermath had proved that the education system was discredited.

It was also clear that Prof Van Der Walt had not consulted the Vaal communities when drawing up his report, but had relied on "Government stooges."

Azapo believed the report lacked an objective basis and only confirmed the bias of the Government, a spokesman said.

He said uprising in the Vaal and other areas was essentially caused by the Deteriorating economic situation, the education crisis and the strong opposition to Government structures.

However, Mr Ray Swart, national chairman of the PFP and Opposition spokesman on Co-operation and Development, said he was not surprised by the findings because it had been clear for a long time that frustration among blacks was very deep.

The exclusion of blacks from any meaningful political role, discrimination and socio-economic factors of financial deprivation and hardship was bitterly resented, he said.

CSO: 3400/433

SOUTH AFRICA

TWO EXPATRIATES AMAZED AT CHANGED BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Jan 85 p 11

[Article by Peter Malherbe]

[Text] Two South Africans living abroad met by chance in Johannesburg this week--and shook their heads in amazement at what they saw around them.

For both men, one black and one white, it was the first trip home for many years.

And for both it was like coming back to a different land.

They couldn't believe the "remarkable" changes that have taken place in the past decade in South Africa.

Changes like:

--Blacks and whites mixing freely in shopping centers.

--Black shop assistants serving whites.

--Multiracial sport.

--Black traffic officers ticketing whites.

--Black policemen carrying firearms.

--And far fewer "whites only" signs in public buildings.

"Man, I don't have to run to Park Station to go to the loo any more. I can just walk into this toilet right here," said an amazed Mr Theo Mashoba at the Carlton shopping centre in Johannesburg.

Incredible

After spending 14 years in America studying, he came back to South Africa last month to spend Christmas with his parents in Soweto--and has decided to move back to Southern Africa.

Equally shocked by the changes in South Africa was Mr Andre de Wet, who looks like an Afrikaner farmer out of a Herman Charles Bosman story.

The 51-year-old Cape Town-born photographer, who moved to London more than 12 years ago in search of work, has returned to South Africa to visit his children.

He was bowled over by the transformation in his homeland.

"People told me that things had changed, but I certainly was not prepared for this.

"The most incredible thing is that everything has become so much more integrated. In Johannesburg I've seen that blacks and whites mix quite naturally. It was nothing like this when I left.

"You would never have seen hardline conservative Afrikaners being served by blacks in department stores."

His views are echoed by Mr Mashoba, who last visited South Africa in 1976 when he brought his white American wife out for a holiday. He has seen major changes since then.

During the last visit, the Mashoba couple decided that it was too risky to stay together. He stayed in Soweto with his parents and she stayed with friends in the upper-class white Sandton suburb of Bryanston.

Today they would be free to stay in a number of hotels together and mix relatively freely.

"People may say that the changes are petty, but I tell you, man, from what I've seen, they're big.

Opportunities

"The changes can be seen everywhere, but I haven't had time to assess how deep they are."

While the living standards of many of his parents' friends in Soweto had not changed drastically over the years, the younger blacks had many more opportunities than there were when he was a child.

Mr Mashoba said there had been noticeable improvements. Black spending power had changed many people's attitude.

He remembers in 1976 going to a supermarket with his wife to buy a record. "We were standing in line to pay. She had the record and I had the money. But they wanted to serve her even though I was the one who was going to pay."

Today shopping centres are multiracial and black and white shoppers mingle freely.

Mr Mashoba has been studying at the University of Wisconsin where he majored in political science and international relations. He also completed a master's degree in history.

He has decided that the time is right to return and settle in Southern Africa.

"I would like to work in an academic or governmental environment, as this is what my studies have been geared for."

When he has completed his plans, his wife, Carolyn, will join him. He has been looking at employment possibilities in South Africa, BophuthaTswana and Swaziland. This weekend Mr Mashoba was in Swaziland for interviews.

He said that his mixed marriage had not been "totally accepted" in America, but that he had not encountered any major problems.

While it was the heat and the extensive highway system that first surprised Mr de Wet on his return, it was the political changes that really shook him.

Superior

He said the extensive motorway system from Jan Smuts airport to the city was one of the first shocks he had received.

"They had a couple of double highways in my day, but the road system now is far superior to that in Britain in relation to the population it serves."

The political changes were remarkable. He said that, judging from what he had seen in and around Johannesburg, it appeared that black people now had much more freedom.

"There are a lot more black people in the city centre, both shopping and working there. And at the Oriental Plaza it was a real eye-opener to see the total mix of whites and blacks shopping.

"In a shoe shop I saw a white saleslady serving a black customer. That is normal in Britain, but it certainly wasn't normal when I left here."

CSO: 3400/433

SOUTH AFRICA

RAU ECONOMETRIC GROUP EXPRESSES OPTIMISM

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 31 Dec 84 p 8

[Text]

AMID the general economic gloom and doom the Econometric Study Group of Rand Afrikaans University remains persistently optimistic.

The latest quarterly econometric forecast says: "We have little doubt that people are unnecessarily pessimistic at the moment.

"Although the absolute level of economic activity is being negatively affected by the high rates of interest, there are many positive signs which signal the return of moderate prosperity.

"First and most important of all, is the significant increase in exports which is taking place, following upon the strong economic recovery in the USA and quite healthy recoveries in the UK, West Germany and the rest of Europe.

"The increase in exports is now leading the economy into a true recovery, based on an increase in production, in contrast to the previous quasi-recovery based on government expenditure and wage increases."

The survey says that indications are that interest rates have commenced a slow but definite downward trend.

The survey was issued just before the increase in the prime rate by the major banks to 24% after the recent drop from 25% to 23%.

"Next we have a hard-earned return of a surplus on current account. This surplus is not the result of an increasing gold price. In fact, it happens despite a low gold price, as a result of the world economic recovery and the low value of the Rand on international markets.

"It provides the proof that we can enjoy a surplus on current account as a result of non-gold exports and low imports."

The survey says that a serious effort towards fiscal discipline is also being introduced under the new Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis.

"Although growth in 1985 is expected to be lower than that of 1984, it is still expected to be definitely positive. Furthermore, growth in 1985 will be more soundly based on exports and production, rather than on expenditure," the survey says.

"Last but not the least, our forecast looks upon a gradual decline in the rate of inflation during 1986 and 1987. There is also a remote possibility that inflation may decline even next year."

These opinions by RAU run contrary to most economic predictions.

Overall economic opinion is sceptical of the Government's attempts at fiscal discipline which have yet to show in the money

supply or State spending statistics.

Virtually no economists believe the inflation rate is going to come down next year and most see it climbing.

RAU does hedge its prediction by pointing out some of the risks which could throw it out.

"A further substantial strengthening of the dollar on world markets may force down both the rand and the price of gold.

"As a result, interest rates may increase again, whilst tax increases may become unavoidable just in order to maintain present government income levels.

"Our optimism with regard to an eventual decline

in the rate of inflation may prove unrealistic if we don't see monetary and fiscal discipline in the next three years.

"However it seems that Minister Barend du Plessis is serious on this score and we believe that he will be successful. Runaway wage increases may equally jeopardise the positive inflation outlook.

"Yet although wage increases will occur we are of the opinion that the bargaining power of labour will on average not be strong enough to dictate such an increase.

"There is simply too much unemployment at the moment in the economy," the RAU report says.

CSO: 3400/424

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA, BUTHELEZI OPPOSE TALKS WITH ANC

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 2 Jan 85 p 8

[Text]

The remarkable understanding reached in November between South Africa's President, **P.W. Botha**, and the chief minister of the Kwazulu "homeland", Chief **Gatsha Buthelezi**, is part of the most important political realignment in South Africa since the forming of the *Conservative Party* in 1982. The meeting between the two - the first since January 1980 - followed open demands from influential members of South Africa's white community for talks between the government and the outlawed *African National Congress* (ANC). Botha and Buthelezi, who refuses to accept "independence" for his homeland because he opposes apartheid, have a common enemy in the ANC.

The most succinct statement on the need for talks with the ANC came from a prominent white businessman, **Tony Bloom**, winner of the Witwatersrand Business School's 1984 Award for Management Excellence, who noted publicly that he and many of his colleagues were of the opinion that South Africa's "wheels have begun to fall off". It was essential to consult "leaders with the black political credibility of people like **Nelson Mandela** and ANC president **Oliver Tambo**. It may well be that leaders such as President **Mangope** (of Bophuthatswana) and Chief Buthelezi must be included, but their inclusion should come at the behest of blacks and not through the imposition of a desire for homeland recognition".

This drew an immediate and furious response from Buthelezi, who accused Bloom of talking political garbage and of having fallen for the propaganda of revolutionary leaders committed to violence. "The external mission of the ANC has declared war on *Inkatha* (the Zulu movement) because the ANC inside the country is virtually non-existent", Buthelezi claimed. Bloom restated his view about

the "historic inevitability" of talks with the ANC which, he thought, had considerably more support than was believed; but the degree of support could not be proved in the case of a banned organization, since to profess support for it was in itself a crime. Bloom's statements are interesting because they are so openly dismissive of the bantustan chiefs, but they do not differ in essence from the recent declarations of other white establishment figures. For instance the *verligte* (enlightened) movement of Afrikaner intellectuals, the *Reformatory Movement of SA* (REMSA) - a Dutch Reformed Church organization - has expressed very similar opinions.

Professor **Harvey van der Merwe**, a leading REMSA member, was in Lusaka a few days ago for talks with "senior officials" of the ANC. Although Botha's *National Party* (NP) bars its MPs from talking to the ANC, Van der Merwe states emphatically that "eventually there will be official talks with the ANC". REMSA has NP MPs among its members. Even the *Financial Mail*, the respected local business journal, stated that "it is clearly folly to believe that homeland leaders and community councillors are the real black leaders. Like it or not, it is organisations like the ANC and black trade unions that really count. It is to them that government should be talking". Since then the call has been echoed by the pro-government magazine, *Beeld*.

The business community was particularly worried by the "stay-away" of black workers in the Transvaal in November, which brought industry to a halt for a few days. The calls for dialogue were spurred by the fact that the Nkomati accord with **Mozambique** has not noticeably reduced ANC guerrilla activities, by the success of the campaign for the boycott of the Indian and Coloured elections under the new constitution, and by international pressure. But Botha is unlikely to respond to the demand for consultations with representative "revolutionary" blacks, not least because the senior ranks of the *South African Defence Force* (SADF) are dead set against it. Instead he hopes to stem the clamour by cobbling together a group of blacks which would effectively be led by Buthelezi's *Inkatha* organization, which now has 375,000 members according to its secretary-general, **Oscar Dhlomo**. Claims that it is the largest black organization in South Africa cannot be substantiated. A recently conducted private poll seems to show overwhelming preference for the ANC, above all in urban areas.

The whites who call for dialogue with the ANC fear that Buthelezi might be regarded as "another **Muzorewa**" by the black majority he could be called

upon to represent. Buthelezi has therefore been driven away from the liberals and closer to the government. He campaigned against the stay-away in November, and has had a hostile reception in Soweto. His latest statements hint at the possibility of negotiations with Pretoria if "black disunity" can be overcome. Sources close to the Kwazulu government say that the Zulu "national interest" had to come first and that Buthelezi's attitude to Pretoria in recent months has been influenced by the withdrawal of Pretoria's offer to cede to Swaziland Kangwane (the Swazi "homeland") as well as part of Northern Zululand - territories which Swaziland claims on historic grounds. Buthelezi's relationship with Swaziland has also been soured by family quarrels, a factor which lends additional importance to the land dispute.

The senior ranks of the South African army have reacted strongly to any suggestion that negotiations be held with the ANC. A number of cabinet ministers appear to have been surprised by the army's unambiguous response. For two years all but a handful of *verligte* senior officers have been profoundly sceptical of foreign minister **Pik Botha's** efforts to reach political accommodation with South Africa's neighbours by signing non-aggression pacts. South African Military Intelligence (SAMI) and the army's top commanders in operational areas (**Namibia, Angola** and the Mozambican frontier areas), without exception, have advocated a policy of military attrition, covert and open, to ensure the eventual installation of moderate governments in Angola and Mozambique.

CSO: 3400/427

SOUTH AFRICA

MOTOR INDUSTRY'S PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED

East London DAILY DISPATCH in English 27, 28, 29 Dec 84

[Three-part series by Ray Dowling]

[27 Dec p 14]

[Text] The spectre of unemployment has emerged again in the Eastern Cape and Border in the wake of the recent retrenchment of thousands of motor industry workers.

Although the industry, the largest single employer of black male labour in the region, is concentrated in the Port Elizabeth Uitenhage area, with one large manufacturer in East London, large-scale lay-offs also have a serious impact on Ciskei and Transkei, from where many of the workers originate. In short, the entire economically interlocked region has been affected by the cut-back in motor vehicle production, and the ranks of the jobless--in an area that has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the country--have been further swollen.

The causes of the steep economic downturn and consequent fall off in demand for vehicles are manifold--state mismanagement of the economy, the rise of the US dollar, government steps to cut inflation and many others. It is uncertain when this state of affairs, called in some circles the Second Great Depression, will improve; most economists forecast that the country is facing at least another year of slow recovery and growth.

The question now being asked is: what can be done to counter or prevent the negative social and political impact that retrenchments have on an economically depressed region? Could the manufacturers not, during the "good times" include in their cost structures a calculation that would enable them to retain staff, even at reduced wages, during the "bad times"?

(In June, for example, manufacturers were hard pressed to keep up with demand as buyers rushed to beat the July 1 GST increase).

"It would be impossible," says Mr Harry Hill, press relations manager at the Ford plant in Port Elizabeth.

"The profit margin in South Africa is not as big as people might think. Countrywide there are a lot of vehicle manufacturers competing in a small market. The total annual vehicle market is only about 400 000 units and market shares are relatively small."

If manufacturers planned for recessions in their costing of units the price of vehicles would be pushed up.

"It would be inflationary."

It would also be difficult to predict downward phases. "How do you plan for that?"

He said cognisance was taken of the socio-political implications of lay-offs, "but one can plan only up to a certain limit."

The company was sympathetic about the plight of retrenched workers and an attempt was always made to minimise the number of people laid off.

Was there any other way the problem could be tackled?

"It is a pity the whole region is so dependent on the motor industry. And it might be unfair to expect that we virtually alone have to provide so many jobs and keep people in work."

He asked if it was not the duty of the government to find a solution. "The answer would seem to be to draw a more diversified range of industries to the area to provide employment."

The motor industry had no direct control over the fall off in demand and the companies had to remain viable to get a return on investment and continue production.

Mr Ronnie Kruger, public affairs manager at Volkswagen, agrees that "it is a pity so many people are dependent on the motor and allied industries."

Does the industry have a social conscience when it comes to retrenching workers?

"It is never the first step to decrease the numbers of our staff," said Mr Kruger. "We first decrease the working hours by degrees, then we go on to a four-day week, and so on."

"Retrenchments are always the last resort. It is only when we experience a very serious dip in production that we have to take this step."

He said the industry was not following a programme of production adjustment by hiring and firing.

"We do all we can in consultation with the unions, then it becomes a matter of overall survival."

It would also not be possible to budget for the "bad times" because vehicles would be over-priced.

"It is an incalculable provision. Who would have thought in January that we would be in the position we are now."

He added that the company's social involvement extended to housing, education and other forms of assistance to the workers' communities.

Mr Peter Sullivan, public relations manager at General Motors, said: "We are extremely concerned about the impact of retrenchments on the unemployment situation."

The company was "highly conscious" of the problem and went out of its way to avoid lay-offs.

He said most of the manufacturers had "full-scale" social action programmes in the communities from which they drew their resources.

[28 Dec 84 p 3]

[Excerpts] In November the director of the Motor Industries Federation, Mr Jannie van Huysteen, estimated that of the 45 000 workers in the motor industry, at least 3 500 had been retrenched this year, and thousands of others were working short time two or three days a week. Since then CDA in East London has laid off a further 280 employees at its Mercedes Benz plant, and Nissan 540 workers.

Retrenchments have also taken place in the retail motor trade and in the motor components manufacturing industry.

Mr Van Huysteen said the slump was the worst since World War II and the position was expected to deteriorate in 1985.

What has been the unions' response to members being laid off in a high unemployment region? Do they feel that profits come before people?

"Our major concern is with job security for our members," said Mr Les Kettledas, regional secretary of the 21 000-strong National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union (Naawu).

"It is an issue that is of great concern to us and we want to develop strategies to ensure greater job security for members."

Naawu always put forward proposals to management to prevent retrenchments because most of its members worked in high unemployment areas.

He said the companies retrenched workers to cut their costs when a downward phase occurred in the industry.

"It is bad management in a way because they don't plan ahead for a crisis like we are experiencing now."

The easiest way for the manufacturers to cut costs was to lay off the hourly paid workforce.

Mr Kettledas said there should be a corresponding cut-back in salaried staff because the work they did was related to the production work done by the hourly paid staff.

Naawu had started a retrenchment fund in March this year to provide a small benefit for the first six weeks after a staff member had been retrenched. "It takes about six weeks for unemployment benefit funds to be paid out."

All the members of Naawu contributed to the retrenchment fund.

"We are now able to give a small benefit so the worker and his family are not entirely without some means of income."

Another ameliorating factor was that employers paid severance pay to laid off workers.

"They pay one week's wages for every two years of completed service in terms of an agreement we have reached with them."

However, some workers suffer more than others. "There are some workers who have only a very short period of service and they are left with practically no source of funds."

UIF benefits are paid out for 26 weeks--if the contributor has paid in for a period of three years.

"Anyone who has not paid in for three years won't be paid for the full 26 weeks. This is a real source of concern for us."

He felt it was the responsibility of the government to provide some form of relief for the industry. "Some of the restrictions, such as high interest rates, must be lifted as soon as possible so the automobile industry can start producing again."

Mr Dennis Neer, regional secretary of the Motor Assemblers' and Component Workers' Union, said many people had been affected by the retrenchments.

He said the unions would "have to try and look into the future" and plan ahead and negotiate with the companies when a downturn in the industry was again expected.

Negotiations to provide some form of protection to workers had been held with the companies prior to the current slump, and these would continue.

[29 Dec 84 p 6]

[Excerpts] The motor industry, the largest private enterprise employer of black male labour in the Eastern Cape and Border, has been hard hit by the downturn in the economy. One of the less fortunate results has been the retrenchment of thousands of workers in the industry--in an area which, since the last century, has had a high rate of unemployment.

Like most problems of a human nature there appears to be no overnight solution.

Mr Michael Weir, president of Assocom, says the Eastern Cape and Border have "always been high unemployment areas"--" and they will remain so for some time to come."

"We have a long way to go to overcome the problem." But progress had been made.

"The decentralisation incentives offered by Region D were designed to attract labour intensive industries. This indicates the authorities are aware and concerned about the situation. And the incentives, to a large degree, have been very successful in attracting industries to the region."

He did not believe it would be beneficial if the motor industry moved away from the Eastern Cape.

"We on the Border are very fortunate in that we have a diverse range of industries located here. We are not nearly so dependent on the motor industry as Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage. It is not necessary to diversify much more."

The motor industry was a sound and viable industry.

He anticipated it would take at least another six months before the bottom of the downswing was reached and a slow recovery began.

CSO: 3400/437

SOUTH AFRICA

SQUATTER FACTION LEADERS SPEAK

Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English 31 Dec 84 p 2

[Article by Riaan De Villiers]

[Text]

MR MELFORD YAMILE, leader of the Nyanga Bush squatter community, claimed yesterday the Crossroads committee led by Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana was backing two breakaway squatter factions which clashed with his group last week.

Mr Yamile was interviewed in a nearby township yesterday after fleeing the Nyanga Bush camp in fear of his life during last week's fighting.

Mr Yamile yesterday claimed the violence was caused by squatters led by Mr Isaac Gwiliza and Mr Christopher Toise who had broken away from the Nyanga Extension and Cathedral groups earlier this year.

He said a meeting of squatter leaders had been held in September after friction in the area in which Mr Gwiliza's group was involved.

It was agreed that Mr Gwiliza should stand down as leader and another be elected. However, he said, the Crossroads leadership had harboured him without

the other leaders agreeing.

His and Mr Toise's followers had started attacking his community on December 22.

"I don't know why they are fighting with us. But Crossroads is involved. They are keeping Mr Gwiliza and Mr Toise there. Their people attack us and then they run away to Crossroads," he said.

Mr Albert Napakade, secretary of the Crossroads committee, rejected the allegations as "total rubbish".

He confirmed that Mr Gwiliza and Mr Toise supported Mr Ngxobongwana and that they were living in Crossroads. "But we are not helping them. We don't know who is responsible for starting the fighting.

"Our only involvement is to try to settle it," he said.

He said half of the committee as well as representatives of the Western Cape Civic Association — which is also chaired by Mr Ngxobongwana — had gone to the Nyanga Bush camp to meet with its leaders yesterday afternoon.

The delegation had not yet returned.

He added the Western Province Council of Churches had also asked the committee to convene a meeting of all squatter leaders later this week to try to settle the conflict.

Found with Mr Toise at a shack in Crossroads, Mr Gwiliza denied that his group was involved in the violence. He said he and some of his followers had been living in Crossroads since November when they were forced to leave their area by the Nyanga Bush leadership.

Mr Toise acknowledged that his followers were involved in the fighting, but claimed it had been triggered off by Nyanga Bush squatters who were trying to force them off their land.

He had left his shack in the Nyanga Bush camp last week after hearing of death threats and had moved in with Mr Gwiliza. Since then, his shack had been burnt down.

"From then, I have heard reports about the fighting but I have not been involved," he said.

CSO: 3400/436

SOUTH AFRICA

MORE HOMICIDES REPORTED AMONG COLOREDS

East London DAILY DISPATCH in English 27 Dec 84 p 5

[Text]

CAPE TOWN — The average homicide rate for coloured people was 15 times higher than for whites between 1968 and 1977 — and should have alerted the authorities to a major outbreak of violence, says the South African Medical Journal.

The number of homicide deaths among coloured people increased threefold in 1975, "undoubtedly owing to the unrest and disturbances in urban areas that year."

"The steady and significant increase was an indicator of stress in a population under various social strains and should have alerted the authorities to the possibility of a major outbreak of violence," the report said.

The mortality rate for

all causes of death among coloured people was twice as high as for whites over the 10-year period. The mortality rate of Indians was midway between that of coloured people and whites. The mortality rate decreased over the 10-year period only among whites.

The study was compiled by Prof C. Wyndham of the Institute for Biostatistics of the SA Medical Research Council and the University of the Witwatersrand's department of physiology. It examined the causes of death among whites, Indians and coloured people aged from five to 64.

The study was in response to research that indicated the leading causes of death among blacks and coloured

people were similar to those seen in developing countries and were largely attributable to poor socio-economic circumstances and inadequate health services.

The causes of death chosen for study were among the leading causes of death observed in developing countries — infectious diseases, tuberculosis, pneumonia, rheumatic heart disease, "ill-defined" causes of death and homicide.

The mortality rate from infectious diseases among coloured people was 14 times higher than among whites, four times higher for pneumonia, four times as high for ill-defined causes of death and three times higher for rheumatic heart disease.

CSO: 3400/436

SOUTH AFRICA

SEIFSA PREDICTS UPSWING IN EARLY '86

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 7 Jan 85 p 16

[Article by Duncan Collings]

[Text]

No meaningful turnaround in the fortunes of South Africa's metal and engineering industries can be expected until early 1986 and at best 1985 is seen as a period of consolidation.

However, the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa), says there are some expectations that the low value of the rand will offer opportunities for import replacement and some stimulus to Seifsa's export sectors.

In its review of 1984 and outlook for 1985, Seifsa says that in overall volume terms, production in the metal and engineering industries is expected to show a growth rate of 3.5 percent for 1984 compared with an extremely low level for the previous year.

Output of steel ingots for 1984 is estimated at

7.5 million tons, 6.7 percent higher than 1983, but a further softening of domestic demand is expected in 1985, compensated somewhat by increased export volumes. But no real upturn is expected until early 1986.

A similar picture is expected to emerge in the steel casting sector where capacity utilisation in 1984 was about 35 percent below normal.

The metal fabricating and engineering industries experienced depressed activity throughout 1984 and at best only anticipate marginal increases in demand towards the end of 1985.

The shipbuilding and repair industry is also contending with serious difficulties and a further decline in demand is foreseen for 1985. Structural engineering also anticipates a prolonging of

current low activity levels until late in 1985.

The non-electrical machinery industry expected no alleviation of current depressed conditions during 1985, nor does the electrical machinery sector.

Some bright spots are expected in the export sector with primary steel export volumes in 1985 expected to be higher than 1984. Secondary steel producers also see some bright prospects for improved export volumes in 1985.

On the other hand machinery and electrical machinery sectors expect no improvement in 1985 after a weak export performance in 1984.

But the ferro-alloy industry expects another good export year after very good export volumes in 1984.

CSO: 3400/424

SOUTH AFRICA

ISCOR PLANS TO DOUBLE STEEL EXPORTS

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 4 Jan 85 p 17

[Text]

Iscor has launched a new steel export drive which could see the corporation exporting a record 2,4 million tons — more than the 1 million tons exported last year (1983/84).

The increased exports will bring in millions of rands in foreign exchange for Iscor, which recorded its first profit in the 1983/84 financial year after two years of losses.

Two of the export orders — 77 200 tons of rail steel for Turkey worth R32 million and a 30 000 ton steel slabs order to Taiwan worth R8 million — have been exported, and there are plans for further shipments, mainly to the Middle East, the Far East, Europe and possibly the United States, according to an article in the latest issue of *Iscor News*.

OVERSEAS MARKETS

If Iscor manages to meet its 2,4 million ton target on export markets it will be the largest tonnage of steel ever exported by the corporation in a single financial year.

It will also mean that about half of the liquid steel produced by Iscor this year will be destined for overseas markets counterbalancing a falloff in local demand.

However Iscor has given assurances that the increased exports will not detrimentally affect supplies to the domestic market.

The increased export tonnage is the result of a more favourable export climate, and the drop in the value of the rand which will make Iscor steel more attractive to overseas buyers.

The increased exports will also have a spinoff for the depressed Port Elizabeth area. Because Durban, Iscor's main steel export harbour can only handle about 1,8 million tons of steel a year, Port Elizabeth is again to be used as a secondary export port, handling an estimated 600 000 tons.

Port Elizabeth was used as an export port by Iscor from 1979 to 1982, but then discontinued because of the world slump in the export market.

Iscor's new use of Port Elizabeth could pump in R6,5 million a year to the region in port, shipping, railway and other activities.

To meet the 2,4 million ton target the two ports will have to load about 8 700 tons of steel a working day, needing six block trains of 39 wagons carrying 1 500 tons of steel every day of the year.

CSO: 3400/424

PRIVATISATION PROPOSED SOLUTION FOR RSA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 29 Dec 84 p 8

[Article by Stan Kennedy]

[Text]

The rising burden of income tax is discouraging work effort and savings, as well as threatening to encourage the emigration of highly skilled people.

At the same time, the burgeoning growth in state spending is exacerbating inflationary pressures and is not conducive to long-term growth.

The answer to these problems, says Professor Roger Gidlow, is the privatisation of parastatal bodies, which would bring fiscal, political and economic benefits.

At the annual meeting of the Reserve Bank in September, the Governor, Dr Gerhard de Kock, said privatisation should be considered as an option in alleviating the funding problems of the Treasury. At the same time, the Director General of Finance, Dr Joop de Loor, said that the selective sale of state assets to the private sector was an now an accepted facet of official policies.

Writing in the Bank of Lisbon's *Economic Focus*, Professor Gidlow says privatisation would lead to increased competition and consumer choice, greater efficiency and reduced political interference. It would also have a beneficial effect on inflation as well as creating the opportunity of spreading share ownership in the community.

Privatisation of parastatal bodies could reduce subsidisation of those enterprises incurring financial losses and funds from the Treasury would no longer be required. Revenue windfalls would accrue from selling

off state assets, resulting in the strengthening of the Treasury's financial position. "It is often suggested that one of the most suitable candidates for privatisation would be Iscor," he says.

"It has not paid a dividend since 1972 but it pursues very conservative accounting policies and is potentially a highly profitable company. The purchase of its share stake cost the state R865 million but the book value of the share capital plus distributable reserves alone were worth almost R2 000 million last year."

Using this conservative valuation, and assuming the shares owned by the state were sold over a three-year period, the annual receipts would be about R700 million. This, he says, compares with the latest revised estimate for the budget deficit in the current fiscal year of R3 600 million.

Professor Gidlow says another possible candidate for privatisation is the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). The IDC has widespread industrial interests and total assets of more than R1 billion.

In the interests of efficiency and competition, he argues, there is a strong case for the privatisation of the South African Transport Services (SATS), with the formation of three companies to handle the railways, harbours and airways. This would promote competition in the transport industry as well as competition for management and skilled workers between the three companies.

On the economic benefits, he says consumer prices have been rising more than 10 percent a year for the past 10 years. This has been due, in part, to the regular increases in administered prices levied by state bodies such as SATS, the Post Office and Escom.

"By denationalising such bodies, inflationary pressures might be reduced through the elimination of inefficient production and restrictive labour practices."

"Lack of political interference could lead to more efficient production and surplus labour could more readily be removed. If capital is partly provided in the form of equity finance, the burden of fixed interest charges would be reduced."

Ownership of Iscor, Escom and SATS has long been regarded by the ruling party as being beneficial to its own interests, he maintains, because large numbers of Afrikaans-speaking people are provided with "sheltered" employment by these institutions.

Professor Gidlow says, however, that the political landscape is changing.

"The Afrikaaner has now decided to share power with Coloureds and Indians and possibly, at some future date, with urban blacks. One can no longer rule out entirely a future South African government, controlled by non-whites, which is committed to the destruction of the present economic set-up and the introduction of a socialist economy."

In his opinion, the more state assets sold and dispersed among South Africans of all persuasions, the more difficult it should be for any future government to embark on wholesale nationalisation.

From a political point of view, it is in the interest of white South Africans to encourage the sales of these assets to foreign as well as local investors. He argues that the greater the ownership of these shares in foreign hands, the greater the leverage western governments could exercise over any future government contemplating extreme socialist measures.

CSO: 3400/424

SOUTH AFRICA

IMPORTS SPUR CEMENT PRICE WAR

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 7 Jan 85 p 8

[Text]

IMPORTED cement will be railed to the Transvaal today in a move that seems certain to set off another round in the price war so far confined to Natal.

Mr Tony Cadman, spokesman for Cement Enterprises, importers of Ace Cement, said: "The move has virtually been forced upon us by the cement cartel who have continuously forced prices to drastically low levels in Natal, to thwart our challenge, so that it is now more profitable to sell on the Rand."

He added: "We've always made it clear that our presence in SA has been to fill the cement shortage in Natal, but the cement cartel has used Transvaal for some time to subsidise their opposition against our presence in Natal to the extent that a pocket of cement on the Rand now costs R4,24 and R3,60 in Ladysmith."

Mr Cadman said this, coupled with numerous requests and enquiries Cement Enterprises has had from the Witwatersrand, and better prices available there, that it was a logical step by the importers to promote their product on the Rand.

"Nonetheless, our basic target is still to extend our 20% share of the Natal market," he added.

The first shipment of several hundred tons leaves Durban by rail today for a large construction company on the Rand.

Since August, when Cement Enterprises' first shipment of 35 000 tons arrived in Durban, the scramble for markets has intensified between the local grouping, Natal Portland Cement, and the importers to such an extent that Mr Mike Doyle, general manager of NPC, recently likened it to trench warfare.

Although Cement Enterprises has kept a low profile, apart from announcing price reductions and defending the quality of its imports, its threat was underlined last month by the arrival of a third shipment of 30 000 tons of cement.

Mr Doyle, who has alleged that Cement Enterprises is dumping cement, said last week that NPC had applied to the Board of Trade for protection on the grounds that imported cement was harming the local industry.

CSO: 3400/424

SEIFSA FORESEES LITTLE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 5 Jan 85 p 7

[Text]

STEEL and engineering industries, hit hard by the recession, do not expect any significant turnaround until early next year.

A report issued yesterday by the economics division of the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation of SA (Seifsa) presents a depressing review for 1984 and a gloomy outlook for 1985.

"At best, 1985 is seen as a period of consolidation with some expectation that the low value of the rand will offer opportunity for import replacement and some stimulus to Seifsa's export sectors," the report says.

"Present indications are that recessionary conditions continue firmly entrenched in Seifsa's manufacturing sectors.

"Concern continues to be expressed, particularly by the machinery sector, at the inability of a number of production-efficient industries to compete successfully on a price basis with relatively low-priced imports in the domestic market and, internationally, in the markets of SA's trading partners.

"Competitiveness is also expected to weaken further during 1985."

The report points out that last year Seifsa industries continued to contribute significantly to the economy.

"Its nett value of sales of own manufactured goods continues to exceed R20 000m, representing a third of the total sales of the manufacturing sector in SA."

Factors which made the Seifsa dubious about a real recovery in production levels being achieved this year were:

- The extent to which the Government is able to contain inflationary pressures;
- The erosion of investment levels and further deferment of capital expenditure programmes on transport equipment, telecommunications and power generating;
- A softening in demand and an increasing unemployment due to the expected fall in the rate of national economic growth;
- A slowdown in the economic growth of SA's major trading partners;
- A continuing low dollar gold price.

Generally, business in the metal and engineering industries in 1984 reflected strong recessionary conditions, says the report.

Exceptions were the export-intensive ferro alloy industry and certain sub-sectors of the electrical machinery sector, where the electronics and telecommunication industries reported satisfactory performances.

"Overall, physical volumes of production are expected to show a growth rate of about 3,5% for 1984, compared with the extremely low level of the previous year. This is slightly above the estimated gross domestic product for the year of 3%."

The report says that in the basic metal and foundry industries output for steel ingots in 1984 were estimated at 7,5-million tons, a 7% increase on 1983.

"Primary steel producers anticipate further softening in domestic demand during 1985 but some compensating increase in volumes of steel exports. However, no real upturn is expected until early 1986."

Total ferrous casting production for 1984 has been estimated at 370 000 tons, an industry utilisation level of about 35% below normal production.

"The industry's short-to-medium-term prospects, linked as they are to major end users in the mining, automobile and heavy engineering sectors, thus continue bleak."

The metal fabricating and engineering industries, generally, had depressed activity throughout 1984 and, at best, anticipated

marginal increases in demand towards the end of 1985.

"In particular, fabricating shops in the heavier sectors of engineering now have considerable spare capacity and with further deferment of capital spending taking place in the public sector, the mining and the energy-generating sectors, no real recovery is foreseen in the medium term."

The shipbuilding and shiprepair industries also had serious difficulties and further declining demand was foreseen during 1985.

The non-electrical machinery industry anticipated little or no alleviation of their depressed trading conditions.

Business conditions in the electrical machinery sector, with the exception of the electric motor, the electric cable and heavy electrical equipment sub-sectors were relatively satisfactory throughout 1984, but were expected to continue patchy throughout 1985.

In contrast, the electronic components industry anticipated some further strengthening of the growth achieved in 1984.

Regarding exports, although world steel con-

sumption is now strengthening, primary steel export volumes for 1984 were only expected to improve marginally on the low levels of 1984, but an increased upturn was expected during 1985.

"The secondary steel producers also see some brighter prospects for improved export demand continuing throughout 1985," the Seifsa report says.

The machinery and electrical machinery sectors, reported a poor export performance during 1984 and anticipated no improvement during 1985.

"On the positive side, South Africa's export intensive ferro alloy industry, with significant increases in world stainless steel production, particularly in the US, were able to report good trading conditions, generally, throughout 1984. Output for calendar year 1984 is estimated at 1,5-million tons, close to the peak level achieved in 1979.

"There was, however, some levelling off in price and consumption towards year end 1984, but prospects of consolidating at a level of 1,5-million tons for year 1985 are considered good." — Sapa.

SOUTH AFRICA

ASSOCOM PREDICTS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 28 Dec 84 p 20

[Article by Stan Kennedy]

[Text]

The first half of next year is going to be particularly difficult, says Mr Michael Weir, the president of Assocom.

In a commentary for *The Star* on the important events of the past year and the outlook for 1985, he says being the vibrant country that it is, with its tremendous potential, South Africa will come out of the difficult times stronger and more resilient.

"But with an improvement in the balance of payments, let us hope the downturn will have bottomed out by mid-year and the economy starts slowly to recover in the second half.

"With the devaluation of the rand, inflation must increase. However, it should come down once the effect of the devaluations has worked its way through the system."

He maintains that all sectors of the population will have to contribute towards the control of inflation.

This is because the private sector cannot bear the total burden of the adjustment.

Much more control over expenditure is required by Government and increases in its ad-

ministered prices must be kept to the minimum.

While agreeing that it is equitable that fringe benefits be taxed, he believes it has been introduced at an "unfortunate period".

"It will undoubtedly affect the economy in the difficult year ahead, hitting the higher-paid executive.

"This trend must be guarded against as we require entrepreneurs to develop the economy. Unless they can be adequately rewarded, the whole country will suffer," he says.

Reviewing the past year, he says it was plagued by labour unrest and this was characterised by mass stayaways from work and the burning of buildings and vehicles in the townships.

"The devolution of power to local governments is a move supported by Assocom, as also is the inclusion of blacks at this level of government.

"It also welcomes the consultations being held between the Government and black leaders on the political future of urban blacks and hopes these moves can be brought to fruition as quickly as possible."

CONTINUED DROUGHT THREATENS MAIZE CROP

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Ciaran Ryan]

[Text]

SOUTH AFRICA faces a R1,5-billion maize disaster as the heatwave wreaks havoc in lands devastated by a fourth year of drought.

Dam levels in the Transvaal are at an all-time low. The Vaal Dam is at its lowest level of 18% full. Hartbeespoort Dam is down to 28,5% of its capacity compared with 35% in December 1983.

Fears are growing that the Transvaal will face a water crisis, causing additional restrictions on industry. The Department of Water Affairs says there is enough to last through the winter.

Relief hope

However, the Weather Bureau's latest forecast has given some hope for an end to the heatwave. The high-pressure system that caused the hot weather has moved eastwards and a trough of low pressure in the upper air has moved in from the west bringing a 40% to 50% chance of rain in the north-eastern parts of SA.

The heatwave has left virtually no chance of a normal maize crop of 8-million tons, says Piet Gouws, chairman of the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo).

"Even with good rains between now and the end of the

season we will be lucky to satisfy our national maize requirements of 6,5-million tons. As things stand we may not even have a 4-million ton crop. If there is no rain before the end of the season the entire crop could be wiped out.

"The heatwave is having a devastating effect on all cash crops. There is no sub-soil moisture left."

If the maize crop is 4-million tons in 1985, South Africa will have to import 2,5-million tons at a cost of about R320 a ton. The cost will be R800-million. However, the cost in terms of lost export earnings will be many times this figure as South Africa is a mealie exporter in normal conditions. The current low value of the rand increases the cost of imports.

R500m loss

Then there is the toll of another bad harvest on mealie farmers. The estimated total investment in the crop this season is R1,7-billion. A crop of 4-million tons at a possible maize price of R300 a ton will yield R1,2-billion, implying a loss to farmers of R500-million.

Last year SA imported al-

most 3-million tons of maize at a cost of R900-million although the consumer was subsidised by the Government to the tune of more than R200-million.

Inflation

It is unlikely that this subsidy will be continued in the event of maize having to be imported again this year, says Dr Gouws.

Inflation will soar as farmers are certain to demand a large increase in the price of summer grains. An increase to R300 a ton from the present R220 has been suggested for mealies. The price of basic foods is already in danger of rising as a result of the impending petrol price increase.

Farmers owe R7 000-million to banks and co-operatives and the prospect of another disastrous year will leave many bankrupt.

Dr Gouws says the banks are not likely to call in loans because of the widespread social implications.

"Rural communities will be affected on a wide scale. Farmers are in a rebellious mood at the moment and they may even ask the Government for a freeze on loan repayments for a year."

SOUTH AFRICA

PULP MILL TO BOOST KWAZULU EMPLOYMENT

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 6 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Mike Peirson]

[Text]

DURBAN — The opening of the R650-million Mondi pulp and board mill at Richards Bay will have considerable spin-offs for black job seekers in KwaZulu.

The mill, which will be operating at 80 percent capacity by the end of this year, now has 905 employees, almost half of whom were drawn from KwaZulu.

Personnel manager at the mill, Paul Smith, says the full impact of the project on local employment has not yet been felt.

"It has been estimated that more than 8 000 jobs for blacks will be created through the mill's dependence on secondary industries in the Richards Bay area and in the forestry and transport industries which will have to supply the mill with about 6 000 tons of timber a day once full production is reached," he explains.

The mill contains some of the most sophisticated com-

puterised control systems and Mr Smith says it is encouraging that several black employees have now been selected to undergo specialised process control operator training.

"Senior Zulu supervisors have been given leadership training and this will be an ongoing exercise to ensure that employees move as far up the ladder as their capabilities allow," he says. "This is in line with Mondi's policy of advancement on merit.

"So far we have spent more than R500 000 on the training of black employees and this budget will increase annually."

The company has also initiated a housing programme for black employees and tenders for the construction of the first 100 homes in the Esikawini township will be out.

The first phase of the housing programme is costing R3-million and the homes should be ready for occupation in October.

CSO: 3400/426

SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL OIL TO TREBLE RE-REFINING PLANT CAPACITY

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 6 Jan 85 p 2

[Article by Malcolm Fothergill]

[Text]

NATIONAL Oil, the only independent re-refiner in the country, is about to treble its capacity, using a new plant built in West Germany and due to arrive in Durban today.

Executive chairman Mr Frank Kleinman hopes an upswing in the economy will absorb the extra output once the plant is complete by the end of March: "We like to think our growth will be at nobody else's expense."

National Oil's growth has been swift since Mr Kleinman bought a struggling business called Maxei for R833 in December 1978.

While Maxei concentrated on blending oils for specialist-uses, Mr Kleinman decided to add re-refining to its activities.

In January 1982, after a "very tough" period of learning by trial and error, Maxei joined the country's four other re-refiners — all of which are controlled by the big oil firms — as the only independent.

"I don't think the others gave us a chance. Our advantage was that we were so small and insignificant."

In 1983, Mr Kleinman took over National Oil Company, a firm established in 1923, and in March 1984 signed a partnership deal with Germany's Fuchs group, the largest independent oil company in Europe and world leader in anti-corrosive and metal-working oils.

With Fuchs's backing, National Oils has now entered the specialised oils market and expects to make significant inroads.

Since garages and service stations are all tied to the big oil companies, which excludes National Oils from that market, the company's business is almost entirely with industry, with the accent on re-refining customers' oil on a drum-for-drum basis.

Big savings are involved, says Mr Kleinman, not only for industry but also for the

country's foreign exchange reserves.

Although Mr Kleinman is reluctant to talk figures, an estimate in 1983 gave the forex savings from re-refining oil as at least R20 million a year. Estimated savings for industrialists were given as 40 percent.

Mr Kleinman, the first MBA student accepted at the University of Cape Town — he received his degree in 1966 — entered the oil business almost by accident, buying Maxei simply because it was for sale and he could afford it.

"It could just as well have been matchsticks. What I was looking for was any business I could afford and that I thought I could run."

He describes his style as management by consensus, in which he and the highly paid heavyweights he has attracted make immediate decisions on issues that need them.

"I look at every invoice that goes through. I would say we run a pretty tight ship."

CSO: 3400/426

SOUTH AFRICA

INDUSTRY, FARMING FACE DESPERATE YEAR

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

AGRICULTURE and industry face a desperate year as dam levels sink to record lows.

Anton Steyn, public relations executive for the Department of Water Affairs, says: "There is still sufficient water for both private and industrial consumption to see us through the winter."

The Vaal Dam, which supplies the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging complex and other areas is only 18% full. The week before it was 19% full. In December 1983 the dam was 42% full, but rose to 50% in March 1984 at the end of the rainy season.

Falling levels

Hartbeespoort Dam was down to 28,5% full this week from its level of 35% a year ago. Hans Strydom Dam, also in the Western Transvaal, is down to 34% from 50% full a year ago.

Panle Botha Dam in the Northern Transvaal is 8% full compared with 12% in December 1983 and 54% in the previous year. Van Ryneveld Pass Dam near Graaff-Reinet in the Great Karoo has only 1% of its capacity compared with 14% in December 1983.

Natal better off

Mr Steyn told Business Times: "Natal is better off than it was last year. Many dams are full, particularly after cyclone Domoina. The average dam level for Natal is 69% compared with last year's 20%."

"The position on the Reef is bad, but we have enough water for the coming year provided people conserve it. We have reserve

supplies in Sterkfontein Dam which gets water pumped up from the Tugela. It can be fed into the Vaal Dam."

Critical

Hopes for a good mealie crop were virtually ended by the dismal rainfall in December, a critical month for growing.

December rainfall in Rustenburg in the Western Transvaal was a miserable 24mm compared with 203mm the previous year. Rustenburg lies in an important maize area. Ermelo in the Eastern Transvaal had 70mm compared with 137mm the previous year.

Johannesburg had only 52mm of rain last month compared with 258mm in December 1983. Pretoria recorded 67mm compared with 137mm the previous December. Durban had 40mm last month against 139mm the previous December.

Average dam level

Maize areas of the Transvaal had a disastrous month. Potchefstroom recorded 54,4mm compared with 70mm in December 1983. Klerksdorp had 14mm — less than 25% of the previous year's 60,9mm. Lichtenburg had only 12mm compared with 79,9mm in December 1983; Schweizer Reneke 29,3mm compared with 96mm.

Kroonstad in the Free State maize belt received 52,5mm of rain against 67,1mm in December 1983.

The average dam level throughout SA is 41% compared with 43% the previous year, but the figure is distorted by well-filled dams in Natal. A year ago they were critically low.

CSO: 3400/426

SOUTH AFRICA

COMPETITION FOR MOSSEL BAY ENGINEERING DETAILED

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 30 Dec 84 p 1

[Article by David Carte]

[Text]

FOUR contenders have grabbed an inside lane in the race for the most desirable engineering job in South Africa — development of the Mossel Bay gas and oil strike, which could be worth up to R3 000-million.

Foster Wheeler of the United States and its SA partner, Edward L. Bateman, have been appointed to do a multi-million rand feasibility study of the onshore plant, which may be a refinery and allied chemical plant.

John Brown of the Clyde, Scotland, builder of the famous Cunard Queen ships, and Murray & Roberts subsidiary Engineering Management Services have been appointed to handle the offshore investigation.

The gas and oil deposit is about 130km off Mossel Bay in water more than 100 metres deep. There are several ways of exploiting it, including an offshore processing and shipping platform. But as investigations are being carried out on and off shore, an undersea pipeline to an onshore processing plant looks likely.

SA has excess oil-refining capacity in Durban and Cape Town, so it is not inconceivable that the gas will be piped to Cape Town. The feasibility study will determine which method — if any — is chosen.

Nico Stutterheim, chairman of Soekor, told Business Times that the four companies doing the feasibility study would not necessarily get the contract for the job itself and the others were still in the race.

But a disappointed Frederick Henry, head of the SA division of Bechtel International, which was contending

in association with Grinaker, said the four nominated companies now had an inside track.

"It has happened in international experience that a company that did not do the feasibility study has won the contract — but this is rare," he said.

The share price of Grinaker has soared on hopes for work at Mossel Bay. Edward L. Bateman shares are so tightly held they have so far not responded.

Dr Stutterheim stressed that the feasibility study did not mean the project would go ahead. The study would determine the advisability of the scheme — and the best way to go about it.

In spite of continuing uncertainty about the project, property speculation continues in Mossel Bay.

If the project does get off the ground, property prices should benefit. But engineers warn that even if it does, a refinery and offshore works will not necessarily cause a boom town. For a boom town, a large permanently employed labour force is necessary.

Petrochemical projects usually amount to kilometres of piping, flaming chimneys and millions of rands of sophisticated machinery — but do not usually employ large numbers of people.

So the project may not do much to lift the Eastern Cape. Regional development will be one consideration in any decision. Another vital question is the strategic need for the scheme in a world oil glut.

Finally, the direction of the rand will be crucial. The weaker the rand, the more expensive imported oil becomes and the more profitable the scheme becomes.

CSO: 3400/426

SOUTH AFRICA

COMPETITION FOR JOBS INTENSIFIES

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Jan 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THOUSANDS of school leavers, new graduates and men who have completed their military service will battle to find jobs when the holidays end

Big employers warned that there will be a scramble for the reduced number of jobs. Job seekers will have to compete for most posts, even in the public service and the Defence Force.

According to official statistics, 500 000 blacks are out of work — 25% more than two years ago. Private-sector observers say this is a low estimate because the Department of Statistics classifies only 12.2-million of 18.2-million blacks as economically inactive. They say black unemployment is more like 2-million and rising.

Trimming

In the past, most whites had little trouble finding jobs. This year, however, the public service is reducing its intake and most industries are reeling from recession and are firing not hiring.

Hardest hit are the motor, furniture, white goods and home appliances industries, which are laying off people. Newcomers are being taken on only if they have special qualifications.

The clothing and food industries are also feeling the pinch. The building industry is starting to suffer from a shortage of work.

With the wholesale and retail trade badly depressed, there are fewer openings in commerce. Banks and insurance companies are taking on matriculants and army leavers, but are being unusually selective.

People may find jobs — but not the ones they want.

Best prospects for job-seekers are in export industries or those supplying exporters, who have been protected by the low rand. This generally means mines or their suppliers.

Qualified and experienced applicants have a head start in the job hunt. There are still shortages of most skills, particularly in electronics, computers and electrical engineering.

The shortage of mechanical, civil and chemical engineers is no longer acute, but many employers are crying out for electricians and other artisans.

Other areas in which there are shortages are teaching and nursing, but the position is easing.

A Post Office spokesman said: "It looks as though we will be able to fill our quota for technicians and telecommunication electricians for the first time in many years." The Post Office has had an unusual flood of applications and is short of young people to fill administrative posts.

Retrenched

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said the mines were delighted with the large number of quality applications. They would take all the electricians and artisans they could get and the usual number of new entrants.

Barlow Rand will have to retrench in certain areas. It is restricting recruitment to safeguard employees. Barlows will recruit professional staff, engineers and technical staff. It employs graduates in a steady flow through its many bursaries.

Gencor has had to retrench thousands of people in its industrial division, but is re-

crulting in the mining sector. It has vacancies for geologists, engineers, accountants, technicians and most of the professional disciplines.

Motor freeze

The motor industry is suffering from a collapsed market and labour intake has come to a standstill.

Toyota's managing director, Colin Adcock, says: "We have put a freeze on employment. Only four new people will start with us this year and their appointments were approved in 1984.

"We are in for a rough six months and I see a few more retrenchments."

Sats lost 28 000 staff members in the 11 months to November and hired 21 000, effectively trimming its work force by 7 000. According to Danie Butler, assistant general manager, personnel, all grades of staff are required, ranging from mechanical engineers to loco firemen, train control officials and guards.

"We are short of the 'bread and butter' type of staff, but are looking at everybody selectively."

Steel and Engineering Industries Federation economist Pat Sullivan says 12 000 people in the industry lost their jobs last year and retrenchments are expected to continue.

Haggie Rand is doing well, supplying wire ropes to the mines and the export market. But it expects its labour force to drop by 5%.

Garment workers could be facing the worst year since the beginning of the recession. The Garment Workers Union's Anna Scheepers says more than 7 000 workers have been laid off in four years and for the first time in the recession union members have been put on slack time.

"Instead of closing for four weeks in December and January, most clothing factories have shut down for eight weeks. According to an agreement between the union and employers, workers have to be paid a slack-time wage — 65% of normal but not exceeding R40 a week.

"There is, however, a healthy demand for qualified machinists," says Dr Scheepers.

Low stocks

Mike Getz, executive director of Seardel Investment Corporation, a major Western Cape manufacturer employing 10 000 people, says almost all will be retained.

"But unlike last year when employment increased in the first quarter, total employment will remain the same — at least for the first quarter.

"This is mainly because retailers finished the 1983 Christmas season with low stocks.

"Trading was satisfactory this Christmas, but most retailers have relatively large stocks. Employment will increase if there is a boom in winter clothing sales. But order books for winter clothing are conservative," says Mr Getz, who is also president of the National Clothing Federation.

If you are battling to find a job, you won't necessarily be able to get one in the army. The Defence Force reports more applications to join the Permanent Force. But it has reduced the number of vacancies.

SOUTH AFRICA

DE KOCK REJECTS CONTROLS TO REVIVE WILTING ECONOMY

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Jan 85 p 3

[Article by David Carte]

[Text]

THE Reserve Bank's free market approach to managing the economy is working, says governor Gerhard de Kock.

While more and more critics advocate a return to exchange, credit, import, wage and price controls to deal with South Africa's economic crisis, Dr De Kock refuses to contemplate them.

Those who favour controls include Johan Cloete of Barclays Bank, Fred du Plessis of Sanlam, Jan Sadle of Stellenbosch University and Joubert Botha of Wits University.

Dr Cloete told Business Times the Reserve Bank's policies were "wrecking the economy". He advocated direct controls over credit, imports, wages and prices and a return to a system similar to the financial rand.

Indirect

Dr Cloete said the Reserve Bank was controlling the economy indirectly through interest rates and he failed to see why there was an abso-

lute difference between indirect and direct controls.

"When you're in a crisis or war situation, you bring in direct controls and this is what we must do now."

Dr Cloete was supported by Professor Sadle, who said SA had no option but to impose controls.

Record lows

But Dr de Kock said direct controls were "socialistic" and "left of centre". In uncomfortable economic circumstances brought about by factors outside SA's control, any alternative to present policies might look tempting.

"The grass is always greener the other side of the fence."

He said this week's fall in the gold price and the rand to record lows and deteriorating agricultural prospects would lead to lower living standards for all South Africans.

"We have taken a knock in the past few days and we can expect inflation to rise sharply in the short term."

"Some critics would have us push up interest rates further, increase taxes, cut Gov-

ernment spending, have an old-style depression — in other words take castor oil. Well, we are taking some but not an overdose."

Dr de Kock said the draconian measures introduced in August were being vindicated.

"Our strategy is working. Spending and demand for credit are declining. Import volumes are falling. Export volumes are rising and we have a sizeable surplus on the current account or the balance of payments."

Reserves

The only reason the reserves had not risen — suggesting a capital outflow — was the old "leads and lags" problem. Importers were paying their bills as quickly as possible, and exporters were repatriating funds as slowly as possible, hoping for a further rand fall. This was a short-term phenomenon that would rectify itself quickly.

It was fortunate that SA had free-market mechanisms to absorb recent shocks.

"If the rand had been linked to the dollar, our reserves would have been de-

pleted and we would have had to devalue the rand far below even its current low level.

"One group of critics says we have not controlled the money supply and another that we are guilty of overkill. We can be guilty of one thing or the other but not both."

Velocity

Free-market economists, such as Brian Kantor of the University of Cape Town, Andre Hamersma of Standard Bank, Frank Shostak of Econometrics and Ari Ulliel, criticise the Reserve Bank for failing to control money supply.

Dr de Kock replied: "It's a mistake to focus only on money supply. Money supply is not the only influence on spending. In the final report of the De Kock Commission we shall present evidence showing that the velocity of circulation has come down sharply since 1980 as a result of our free-market policies.

"This is because borrowing in the grey market has come back into the banking system. The short-term effect has been to make it look as if

money supply is growing like crazy.

"If both determinants of spending — money supply and velocity of circulation — are taken into account, you'll see there has been a substantial decline."

Rex, *Business Times*' economist, says the Reserve Bank appears unwilling to force a much needed adjustment on the nation. SA still has to face up to its real impoverishment caused by the low gold price and agricultural output.

Weakness

Most important, South Africa must address a structural weakness in its balance of payments — excessive dependence on gold and commodity exports — by embarking on a campaign to replace lost gold exports with exports of manufactured goods.

"Everyone is still acting as if the gold price will come back and save us tomorrow. There is no reason to believe this will happen. I know it is tough to export manufacture, but it is imperative. With the rand where it is, it has become a lot easier to export."

CSQ: 3400/426

SOUTH AFRICA

DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION, SEAMEN HIT ARMS, OIL SHIPMENT

SDP Demands Embargo Tightening

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 17 Jan 85 p 7

[Article by Dan Axel: "Social Democrats Say Punishment for Weapon Smuggling Should be Doubled"]

[Text] Hans Haekkerup (S) said that the mild punishment in the Trigon case has created international doubt about Denmark's attitude toward the UN weapons embargo of South Africa.

Denmark should come down harder on the "merchants of death"--those people who smuggle weapons and ammunition to South Africa in conflict with the UN weapons embargo. The schedule of punishments should be doubled from 3 to 6 years in prison.

That will appear in a recommended change to the punishment law which the Social Democrats will present in the Folketing tomorrow. The increase is expected to get a majority--with votes from S[Social Democrats], SF [Socialist People's Party], VS [Left-Socialist Party] and the Radical Liberal Party.

"The merchants of death will get a clear signal that it does not pay to violate the UN's binding decisions about the embargo of South Africa," said Hans Haekkerup (S) to BERLINGSKE TIDENDE. "And at the same time as the maximum punishment is doubled, fines and imprisonment for lesser offenses will also be doubled."

Hans Haekkerup said that a fine of 100,000 kroner plus 6 months suspended imprisonment for a shipbroker in the Trigon case has created doubt abroad about Denmark's attitude toward the UN boycott of South Africa. And also the pending Svendborg case makes the punishment debate of current interest, said the spokesman for the Social Democratic Party.

Tommy Dinesen (SF) on the same subject asked the minister of industry, Ib Stetter (Conservative) if Danish seamen can "demand the right to travel home and retain the right to pay if the crew learns that the ship that they have hired on is carrying weapons, ammunition or the like to South Africa."

The background for the question is that Minister of Labor Grethe Fenger Moller--in connection with the Trigon case--said that "Danish seamen should just sail, regardless of what Denmark has voted for in the UN," said Tommy Dinesen.

Danish Seamen Oppose Oil Trade

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Jens Juul Nielsen: "Seamen Behind South Africa Report"]

[Text] TV-AVISEN yesterday got hold of a secret draft of a Dutch report which claims that the shipping company A. P. Moller was from 1979 to 1981 presumed to be the shipping company which hauled the most crude oil to South Africa. The report comes from the Danish Seamen's Association.

The Seamen's Association stands behind an alarming report which claims that A. P. Moller is presumably the shipper in the world which hauled the most crude oil to South Africa during the period October 1979 to February 1981.

TV-AVISEN released the information yesterday and said that it came from a Dutch report, still stamped secret, worked out by the Shipping Research Bureau in Amsterdam, which was set up in cooperation between church organizations and the Dutch-South Africa Committee.

A number of Danish newspapers and TV-AVISEN were yesterday in possession of secret drafts of the report, and A. P. Moller's information office received a storm of queries.

When BERLINGSKE TIDENDE late yesterday spoke with the chairman of the Seamen's Association, Preben Moller Hansen, his first comment was, "It is our report. We worked on it together with the Dutch bureau, and have had the report for some time. We are taking the initiative, together with seamen in other countries, for a worldwide campaign to prevent the continued hauling of oil to South Africa. It is unfortunate that A. P. Moller puts profits ahead of what the UN says about not hauling oil to South Africa."

A. P. Moller desired only to refer to a statement from 1982 in which the company's deliveries of oil to South Africa were also discussed.

In that statement it was not denied that deliveries had taken place. The statement said: "The shipping firm A. P. Moller has historically sailed in all oceans and to all countries. The firm sails within the law and with reference to current conditions of shipping. The firm does not practice its own foreign policy. It has served many African ports for years, including South African, and will continue to do so as long as the firm exists as a recognized international carrier."

Delivery of crude oil to South Africa was not unlawful, but according to the report the deliveries were essential to the apartheid government in South Africa. In May of last year a Folketing majority decided, against the will of the government, that the transport of oil to South Africa is in conflict with Danish foreign policy.

According to the report 16 A. P. Moller ships delivered 4.5 million tons of crude oil, corresponding to 20-25 percent of South Africa's oil import.

9287

CSO: 3613/88

SOUTH AFRICA

COMMENTARY EXAMINES OPENING OF NEW PARLIAMENT

MB241647 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Station commentary: "The Start of South Africa's New Parliamentary System"]

[Text] The first working session of South Africa's new three-chamber parliament starts tomorrow with the official opening by the country's first executive state president, Mr P. W. Botha. It marks a most important constitutional innovation in the country in the past three quarters of a century in that it introduces a fundamentally changed dispensation, one in which colored and Indian members will join their white counterparts in a single parliament.

The new dispensation rests on two basic principles which reflect South Africa's complex political situation: Separate decision-making by the three respective houses of parliament over matters which concern the three different communities and joint decision-making on issues which directly affect all three communities.

Inherent in the new system is the principle of consensus politics facilitating the search for areas of agreement and a desire to move forward on a common ground established. It caters for the view that basic group rights in plural societies, where in conflict, must be reconciled fairly. The old style of confrontation politics embodied in the Westminster system proved incapable of meeting the needs of a society that is composed entirely of minorities. It must somehow work together or fall apart in [words indistinct]. In years gone by, the allegation was that while South Africa was making progress with the constitutional development of its black peoples, the government had no answer to the problem of political rights of the colored and Indian communities.

However, now that the country's new constitution remedied the situation, the South African Government is accused of ignoring the blacks. While the constitutional development of the black nation has [words indistinct] where each of the 10 had attained independence or self-governing (?status), the crucial issue remaining is the political accommodation of the millions of blacks representing those 10 different nations [word indistinct] who live and work outside the [word indistinct]. It is this issue which the government has identified as its highest priority for the future, and it is in this area that the next dramatic development in South Africa's political reform process is expected.

CS0: 3400/462

SOUTH AFRICA

AUXILIARY TOWNSHIP POLICE TO BEGIN TRAINING

MB230639 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 22 Jan 85 p 2

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Text] The town councils in Greater Soweto--Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepmeadow--as well as the town councils of Alexandra and Lekoa in the Vaal Triangle, are among the 16 black town councils scheduled to establish and control their own police forces, Mr Johan Oosthuizen, of the Department of Cooperation and Development, disclosed yesterday.

Training of the auxiliary police forces for these townships starts next month under instructors approved by the South African police, Mr Oosthuizen said.

The cost of training, equipping and maintaining these "law enforcement units," as they have been dubbed by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the minister of cooperation and development, will have to be borne by the already financially hard-pressed town councils.

Councils will be free, if they wish to recruit whites into their police forces, as the Black Local Authorities Act, under which they are to be established, is "colour blind," Mr Oosthuizen said.

Several centres have been earmarked for the training of the first intake of police auxiliaries, including one in Soweto.

Training will take place under the aegis of special training committees made up of representatives of the South African police, the Department of Cooperation and Development, and the town councils.

The SAP will train candidate officers in drilling and weaponry, Mr Oosthuizen said.

The seven training centres fall under the development boards at present, but the idea is that responsibility for them should be transferred to the town councils.

When Dr Viljoen first announced that he was prepared to authorise the establishment of town council-controlled police forces, the proposal evoked sharp

opposition from black leaders in the United Democratic Front and the Azanian Peoples Organisation.

The evisaged police forces were seen as props for apartheid rather than as apolitical crime-fighting forces. Abolition of apartheid was needed, not more armed men to enforce it, it was said at the time.

Town councils are perceived by many blacks as integral to official race policies, having been established under the Black Local Authorities Act as a partial substitute for the exclusion of blacks from South Africa's new tri-racial parliament for whites, coloreds and Indians.

In the past year town councillors have been condemned by black militants as "collaborators," accused of corruption and self-enrichment, and subjected to physical hostility and homicidal attacks from enraged mobs and/or anonymous saboteurs.

CSO: 3400/462

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

CISKEI PHONE SYSTEM--Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation is covering export credits totalling more than R40m to finance phase 11 of the telecommunications expansion in the Ciskei. Phase 11 involves the expansion of the telecommunications network and includes the establishment of a telephone exchange at Bisho. Execution of the project is expected to take about 42 months. Siemens, Standard Telephone & Cables and the South African Post Office are involved in the project. It embraces upgraded local and trunk telephone exchanges at Bisho, Mdantsane, Qumza, Zwelitsha, Jiba and Alice. Buildings and equipment are included. Microwave links are to be installed between Bisho and Mdantsane, Alice and Mount Kemp. The system calls for about 1,200 linked telephone channels. An additional microwave link will be installed between Alice and Governorskop (near Port Elizabeth) as a link-up with the SA postal system. [Text] [Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 29 Dec 84 p 7]

CSO: 3400/424

SWAZILAND

NHLABATSI COMMENTS ON U.S. UNESCO WITHDRAWAL

MB221615 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The United Nations resident representative, Mr Peter Metcalf, announced this afternoon that UNESCO has donated over 70,000 emalangeni towards the repair of nine school buildings destroyed by Cyclone Domoina in Swaziland. Mr Metcalf made the announcement in the presence of the minister for education, Mr Dabulumjiva Nhlabatsi, the principal secretary for education, Mr Musa Sibandze, and reporters in the Ministry of Education this afternoon.

[Begin Metcalf video, broadcast in progress] ...honor to have this small ceremony here to mark the occasion of the transfer from UNESCO to the Government of Swaziland the sum of \$50,000. [end video]

In reply, Mr Nhlabatsi thanked the office of the director general of UNESCO for the generous donation. The minister, however, expressed concern for developing countries such as Swaziland over the United States' withdrawal from UNESCO and Britain's intention to follow suit.

[Begin Nhlabatsi video] Your excellency, thank you very much on behalf of her majesty's government and the Swazi nation.

[Word indistinct] also reminds me of an event that we are observing with great sadness, that is, the disintegration, as it were, of UNESCO. The pulling out of the United States from UNESCO is an event that is observed with a great deal of sorrow by smaller nations such as Swaziland, and many others, because when that body was together we definitely benefited, and if we had it our way it would have remained intact. But we pray and hope that within good time whatever differences that exist will be ironed out between UNESCO and the Government of the people of the United States, and UNESCO can be together again. As if that was not enough, we continue hearing that even the Government of the United Kingdom, your own country, your excellency, might pull out of UNESCO, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that such will not take place but hope that solutions will be found, and whatever differences in opinion or outlook will be ironed out because without bodies such as UNESCO and the United Nations life will be very difficult indeed for smaller nations like ours. Right now, where would we get such a generous donation of \$50,000? We are very grateful for this and want to thank you for having put away some of your duties for today to come and make this presentation. [end video]

SWAZILAND

ZULU CHIEF SAYS SWAZIS OFFER BRIBE ON LAND SWAP

MB241807 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 24 Jan 84

[From the "Focus of America" program]

[Text] It seems the South African and Swazi governments are still trying to swap land. Plans by the South African Government to hand over chunks of the Kwazulu and Kangwane homelands were defeated in the courts last year. But there are allegations that cloak-and-dagger operations have continued, and according to the chief of the Zulu Temba clan, bribes have been offered to persuade him to join the Swazi Kingdom.

The allegation was made at a press conference organized by the Kwazulu leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi.

From Durban, Neil Lewis reports:

At the press conference, the chief of the Temba clan, Chief (Umzimbwa Temba), disclosed that the Swazi Government had given him 10,000 rand in an attempt to bribe him to join the Swazi Kingdom.

He said the bribery attempt took place on 5 January 1985, when a delegation from the Swazi Government visited his home in Kwazulu.

The delegation was led by a prominent businessman, Mr (Julius Mbuyisa), who told him he would receive 10,000 rand if he called for incorporation into Swaziland. Mr (Mbuyisa), according to the chief, then handed him a packet saying it was a gift from the Swazi queen regent.

Chief Temba said he took the money but handed it over to the Kwazulu authorities the following day. At another meeting, he was informed that the bribe had come from Prince Magangeni Dlamini, of the Swazi royal family.

Displaying the money at the press conference, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi said it seemed South Africa's intelligence service was working hand in glove with the Swazis to secure more for the kingdom, despite two earlier failures.

Early in 1984 Pretoria dropped all plans to cede the Ingwavuma district and the Kangwane homeland to Swaziland, after a successful court action brought

against Pretoria by Kwazulu and in December last year, Swaziland attempted to get Chief Temba to secede from Kwazulu and ask for incorporation into Swaziland, but the plan was foiled.

Both South Africa and Swaziland have not commented on the bribery charges.

CSO: 3400/462

ZAIRE

BRIEFS

MOBUTU COMPARED TO JESUS--Kinshasa, 31 Dec (AFP)--Zairian dictator Mobutu Sese Seko found himself being compared with Jesus Christ by a bishop when he attended mass yesterday, the state-controlled media reported today. Bishop Kesenge of Molegbe, in Zaire's Northern Equator Province, said in his sermon that President Mobutu had been "chosen by God to lead his people to happiness." "Like Christ the saviour you have saved Zaire" after it was split by civil war, the Bishop said. "You have tried to conform faithfully to the image of our lord Jesus, the saviour, the liberator, the unifier and the peacemaker of the people of God." Through the installation of the one-party state under the People's Revolutionary Movement, of which all Zairians are automatically members, "you have united in one great family all the sons and daughters of Zaire," the bishop said, calling on all Zairians to support their president. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 31 Dec 84 AB]

REFUGEES IN TANZANIA, ZAMBIA--Dar es Salaam, 3 Jan (SHIHATA/PANA)--A number of Zaireans have fled to Tanzania following clashes, in November, between anti-government elements and Zairean security forces in the town of Moba. A senior official in the Ministry of Home Affairs responsible for refugees told SHIHATA in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the Zaireans who fled to Kigoma and Rukwa regions would be sent to a refugee camp in Tabora Region for security. The official said granting of political asylum to the Zaireans, whose number was not immediately available, would be done after it has been established that they deserved to be accorded the refugee status in the country. However, a spokesman for the Zairean Embassy in Dar es Salaam said his embassy was not informed on the fleeing Zaireans. Meanwhile, Zambian authorities in northern Luapula Province have reportedly confirmed that more than 400 refugees had entered the country from Shaba Province, Zaire, bordering Zambia following the November clash at Moba. [Text] [Dakar PANA in English 0950 GMT 3 Jan 85 AB]

NEW UNIVERSITY IN KANANGA--Kinshasa, 8 Jan (AZAP)--A new university will be established next September in Zaire, the Zairian evening daily ELIMA announced today. The paper quoted one of the initiators of the project, Bibombe Mwamba, law professor at the University of Kinshasa, as saying that the new university, which will be called the University of Kasai and which will be constructed at Kananga, major town of Kasai Occidental Region (center of the country), will operate as a joint-stock and limited liability company. Four facilities (law, economics, medicine and agronomy) will be set up and offered during the start-up phase of the university curriculum and admission to the school, the paper points out, will be subject to passing the competitive entrance examination which will be scheduled next April and which can be taken by holders of the state certificate (baccalaureat). The university will be the fourth in Zaire after those of Kinshasa, Lubumbashi in Shaba Province, and Kinsangani in Haut-Zaire Province. [Text] [Kinshasa AZAP in French 1428 GMT 8 Jan 85 AB]

CSO: 3419/208

ZAMBIA

FAMINE FOOD DRIVE FAILS

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 8 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] Efforts by the Government to airlift food aid to various parts of Gwembe district hit by the drought have failed because of the prohibitive fuel costs.

Southern Province permanent secretary Mr Pencil Phiri said in Livingstone yesterday that the Government had no money for the exercise which could have helped in certain areas where roads were impassable because of bad terrain.

He said the Ministry of Defence which had been asked to airlift the maize bags to Kafwambira and Siampondo areas had written back saying the cost of such an exercise would be enormous.

The Government had earlier tried to use army trucks to deliver supplies but many of them broke down. The army would not like to return to the areas.

People in Kafwambira and Siampondo are now crossing the border into Zimbabwe for their food requirements, he said.

"They are even selling their fish to Zimbabwe illegally. There are no shops on the Zambian side."

More than 2,000 bags of maize destined for Gwembe are at the Namboard Monze depot awaiting transportation.

Some parts of Gwembe are inaccessible. Some roads have not been maintained because of lack of money and equipment.

Mr Phiri said Gwembe district council had a duty to grade the roads and raise the money for the job.

He would not say how much the grading and maintenance of the network would cost because he had no details from the Mechanical Services Department and the Roads Department.

Members of the Truckers Association of Zambia were not keen to deliver goods to the drought-stricken areas because of the risks involved.

"Vehicles are there but once they break down they will not be retrieved. The area is mountainous."

He advised people with bicycles to ride to Sinazongwe boma for their supplies and those who could walk to do so as there were no transport.

The World Food Programme which had donated the relief supplies was aware of the transport problem in some parts of Gwembe.

CSO: 3400/434

ZAMBIA

COPPER EXPORT DEAL WITH INDIA

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 8 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Zambia is to export copper worth K88 million to India starting this month as the launching of Economic Crusade 1985 begins to gather speed.

The export deal follows the signing of an agreement in Lusaka yesterday in which the Metal Marketing Corporation (Memaco) is to ship 27,000 tonnes of copper to India this year through that country's government-owned Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC).

The accord was clinched at the Memaco headquarters in Lusaka at which India was given an option to buy an additional 3,000 tonnes of the metal if there was demand.

Memaco managing director Mr Lawrence Mutakasha signed for Zambia and expressed satisfaction with the successful manner in which negotiations had been conducted.

The signing ceremony represented an important milestone in the consolidation of the relations between the two countries.

He said the friendly relations between Lusaka and New Delhi had contributed to the fruitful negotiations of the contract.

He commended the efforts made by advance negotiating teams including Memaco's Bureau of Metal Distributors based in India.

The accord was geared towards improving further the friendship of the parties concerned which was vital to the economic well-being of the two Third World nations.

"It will be our endeavour to work together for the mutual benefit of the two countries. We are impressed with the negotiations and the efficient manner in which we have come to the conclusions."

Zambia was the largest single supplier of copper accounting for 80 percent. India's annual demand for the metal was 120,000 tonnes. India produces 35,000 tonnes.

Signing for India, additional secretary and finance advisor in the ministry of commerce, Mr Ram Gupta, said his team was satisfied with the package.

He said that the 27,000 tonnes of copper to be shipped to India this year was an increase of 3,000 tonnes over last year. And out of 40,000 tonnes of copper wirebars required by India, three quarters was supplied by Zambia.

MMTC executive director Mr Bhupindar Singh said the deal with Memaco put the Zambian parastatal high on the list of their dealers worldwide.

Apart from the official negotiated tonnage, between 7-10,000 tonnes of Zambian copper was being bought by India privately.

Mr Gupta also said MMTC had indicated willingness to buy 2,500 tonnes of copper rods from Zambia Metal Fabricators (Zamefa) this year.

His corporation expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with Zamefa on the purchase of copper rods during the talks to be held with company officials today.

The realisation of the deal was conditional on the value of the rods being paid through the importation of Indian products of the same value.

He said certain contracts concerning Zambia's plans to buy buses and tractors had not been finalised because of foreign exchange constraints.

It was recently reported that Memaco had completed its sales campaign for 500,000 tonnes of copper and other minerals to be produced in Zambia this year.

Company commercial manager, Mr Aaron Kataya, said in Lusaka that the sales campaigns conducted in Europe, the Far East, the United States and East and Southern African countries recently were highly successful with demand, particularly for copper, outstripping the expected production.

CSO: 3400/434

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

DEBTS CANCELLED--The Netherlands has cancelled outstanding debts because of Zambia's critical economic situation, it was announced in Lusaka yesterday. Charge d'affaires Mr Robert J. van Houtum said in a statement that although it was agreed during the Paris Club meeting last year to reschedule the debts amounting to K1,605,500, his government decided later to cancel them altogether "in support of Zambia's policy of economic restructuring. Considering the gravity of Zambia's debt and balance of payment situation, it is deemed of great importance that Zambia should be relieved at the most favourable terms." The Netherlands' move was also based on Zambia's readiness to cooperate constructively with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other donors. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 Jan 85 p 5]

CSO: 3400/434

ZIMBABWE

MORE JOIN ZANU (PF) IN MATABELELAND NORTH

Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 31 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] ZANU (PF) has sold many cards in both the rural and urban areas of Matabeleland, but it is not its policy to force people to buy them, said the Minister of Mines, Cde Callistus Ndlovu.

Cde Ndlovu, who is the ZANU (PF) chairman for Matabeleland North, was speaking in an interview at Lupane, where he addressed a rally yesterday.

ZANU (PF) did not have the machinery to force people to buy cards, he said.

He said although people might be requested to join ZANU (PF), they would not be requested to buy cards.

Cde Ndlovu said there had been no political violence similar to that reported in Plumtree, Gwanda and Esigodini a few weeks ago in Matabeleland North.

"We have not had much political violence here, although we were attacked by PF-ZAPU in an incident in Hwange in November which led to the death of Cde Moses Moyo, a member of our youth wing," he said.

Cde Ndlovu said ZANU (PF) membership continued to rise in Matabeleland North, although the party's field workers faced security problems.

"Dissidents continue to be a nuisance in the province. However, the number of the bandits has neither increased nor decreased."

Cde Ndlovu said ZANU (PF) membership continued to rise in Matabeleland North, although the party's field workers faced security problems.

"Dissidents continue to be a nuisance in the province. However, the number of the bandits has neither increased nor decreased."

Cde Ndlovu said party leaders in the rural areas would be encouraged to take up paramilitary training.

"People involved in ZANU (PF) leadership have been taking advantage of the paramilitary training code named Chim'chimbi—for quick military training."

Addressing the rally Cde Ndlovu urged the people to start preparing their fields for better harvests in the light of better rains following the three-year drought.

"We know your crops and animals were disrupted by the drought, but the Government is prepared to help you by providing tractors to help you in the fields," he said.

Cde Ndlovu urged the people to approach their District Administrator when they wanted to make a request for the tractors.

He said a one-party state in Zimbabwe was inevitable because many people wanted it.

He asked the people of [word blurred] to elect people who were prepared to work with the Government when voting in both the local government and next year's general elections.

The Minister of National Supplies, Cde Enos Nkala urged the people of Mzola to plough their fields so as to stop relying on the drought aid.

He said those who had not registered as voters were urged to register soon as the time to select the one who will represent "you" is nearing.

He spoke strongly about the idleness of the District Administrator who the people said they did not know.

Cde Nkala said the District Administrator was not doing his job because he was not visiting the people. "Some of the people do not know that there are tractors they could hire to plough their fields, he said.

CSO: 3400/431

ZIMBABWE

KADOMA DECLARATION DOING WELL

Harare THE HERALD in English 29 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Twenty more news organisations have appointed representatives in Zimbabwe since the Kadoma Declaration which barred South African-based foreign correspondents from covering events in the Frontline States, says the Director of Information, Cde John Tsimba.

He said yesterday 52 organisations now had representatives here.

The declaration was being "well implemented" in Zimbabwe and Pretoria-based newsmen have to apply to the Government if they wish to come to Harare.

Only two journalists had been "kicked out" since independence for biased and blatantly unobjective reporting.

He said the coverage of Zimbabwe was generally good, both local and foreign, except for the "situation in Matabeleland which was a fly in the ointment."

The local Press had done well and was objective, he said.

Cde Tsimba said several television crews from foreign countries had visited Zimbabwe because of the drought and Mozambican stories.

"This became the story more than Matabeleland because Zimbabwe was coping well with the drought and there have been no deaths," he said.

Matabeleland soon became "relegated to the doldrums" when the drought-displaced persons from Mozambique came to Zimbabwe.

Interest was also increasing on making Zimbabwe a major film centre.

Cde Tsimba said the accreditation of foreign and local journalists working in Zimbabwe would begin on January 7 at the Ministry of Information in Harare.

He said the 52 foreign and 45 local journalists would receive new Press identity cards which would be different from the ones they have. They would be required to bring two driver's licence photographs which would be pasted to the Press cards.

Cde Tsimba said all journalists should be accredited and it was illegal to practise in Zimbabwe without the official press card.--Ziana

CSO: 3400/431

ZIMBABWE

MOST CAZ MP'S WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION

Harare THE HERALD in English 31 Dec 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] At least five of the seven Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe Members of Parliament will not be seeking re-election to the second Parliament of Zimbabwe.

Among them are Mr Des Chalmers (Western) and Mr P.K. van der Byl (Chegutu/Kadoma), both of whom have been living outside the country but have made occasional appearances to maintain their seats.

Contrary to CAZ reports that Mr Chalmers had given up his Parliamentary seat, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Cde Didymus Mutasa told The Herald yesterday that the representative for Western had not yet resigned.

"It really makes no difference to me anyway. He is no longer on my pay roll," the Speaker said.

The other three whom sources said would also not be seeking re-election are Mr Des Butler (Eastern), Brigadier Probert (Borrowdale), and Mr Guybon Cumming (Bulawayo North). Various reasons have been advanced for this. Two are reportedly having health problems and at least one simply wants to get out of politics.

As a result, the CAZ is reportedly considering having Senator Mark Partridge and Senator Terence Oatt stand for election to the House.

The CAZ, which early last year failed to find a candidate to stand in the by-election for the Lundi constituency following the death of Mr Donald Goddard is still having the same problem. Few whites want to be associated with it. Even fewer want to go the extent of being on the CAZ ticket.

Mr Ian Smith, leader of the CAZ has claimed that his party failed to field a candidate because their members had been intimidated by the Government. He has, however, never proved it.

The Speaker said in an interview yesterday that there was little doubt that the ruling party could win if it fielded white, Coloured and Asian candidates to contest some of the reserved seats.

Such a move would allow these communities to directly support the Government and not "by proxy as is the case now."

Cde Mutasa said such a move could also be used to test the effectiveness of the policy of reconciliation.

The Speaker is totally convinced that Zanu (PF) will be returned to parliament with a sweeping majority. "I hope that our colleagues see that."

He said he was worried that the leader of the CAZ, Mr Ian Smith, no longer spoke to him.

"I told him to shut up once in Parliament and he seems to have taken offence at that. For several months now he has not spoken to me. I know he has not been speaking to the Prime Minister or other Government officials and that is not good for his party."

The Speaker said leaders of other parties represented in Parliament have always spoken to him about their party business.

"That is how it should always be. I don't know what Mr Smith is playing at."

Mr Tony Berkhout (Central) is the only CAZ MP besides Mr Smith (Southern) almost certain to stand again. Mr Berkhout won a by-election making Mr Smith the only name likely to appear on both the 1980 RF list of candidates and the 1985 CAZ list.

CSO: 3400/431

ZIMBABWE

NO FORCE USED IN PARTY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Harare THE HERALD in English 31 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Bulawayo--AANU (PF) has sold many cards in rural and urban Matabeleland, but it is not party policy to force people to buy them, said the Minister of Mines, Cde Callistus Ndlovu.

Zanu (PF) did not have the machinery to force people to buy the cards, he said.

"People come to our offices in the different areas to buy the party cards, and this is through their own will."

Cde Ndlovu, the Zanu (PF) chairman for Matabeleland North was speaking in an interview at Lupane, where he addressed a rally yesterday.

He said although people might be requested to join Zanu (PF), they would not be asked to buy cards.

Cde Ndlovu said there had been political violence in Matabeleland North similar to that reported in Plumtree, Gwanda and Esigodini a few weeks ago.

"We have not had much political violence here, although we were attacked by Zapu in an incident in Hwange in November which led to the death of Cde Moses Moyo, a member of our youth wing."

Cde Ndlovu said party membership continued to rise in Matabeleland North, although the party's field workers faced security problems.

"Dissidents continue to be a nuisance in the province. However, the number of bandits has neither increased nor decreased."

Cde Ndlovu said party leaders in the rural areas would be encouraged to take up paramilitary training to overcome the problem.

"People involved in Zanu (PF) leadership have been taking advantage of the paramilitary training codenamed Chimbichimbi for quick military training."

"This has inspired confidence in them, and eventually it will be more difficult for dissidents to attack armed people."

Addressing the rally, Cde Ndlovu urged people to start preparing their fields for better harvests in the light of recent rains.

He said the Government was prepared to help peasants by providing tractors.

Cde Ndlovu said a one-party state in Zimbabwe was inevitable, because many people wanted it.

He asked the people of Lupane to elect people who were prepared to work with the Government when voting in both the local government and next year's general elections.

"You must exercise your right to vote and vote for people who represent your wishes in Parliament," said Cde Ndlovu.

CSO: 3400/431

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

ITALIAN GRANT FOR HOSPITAL--The Italian government has approved a grant of \$5 million for the construction of a new provincial hospital in Chinhoyi. The grant includes the construction of a theatre, wards, laboratory, pharmacy, multi-disciplinary training centre and medical equipment. Under the programme, a team of Italian doctors and experts would be funded in the programme which also provides \$1 million for 1985. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 29 Dec 84 p 3]

CSO: 3400/431

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19 Feb 1985